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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 8TH MAY.

THE TIMES defines the task of the Viceroy of India in a truly noble spirit. It says:

"It need scarcely be added that the work of carrying opinion with us is necessarily something very different in India from what it is at home. The English statesman struggles to command the assent of his countrymen to his policy by speeches in and out of Parliament. He is an Englishman addressing Englishmen, and he can move the people directly by his words and action. Not much can be done in India like this. There is a population in the Presidency towns upon whom a Governor-General may exercise some influence by the addresses he makes and the Minutes he publishes; but the only way of reaching the masses is by the spirit he can instil into the conduct of the members of the administration, civil and military, throughout the Peninsula, who are daily brought into contact with the people of the districts in which they reside. Indian history has been not rarely adorned with men who have so [illegible] their services in the hearts of the people among whom [illegible]ived and worked, that they have received the tribute of [illegible]nastic obedience during their lives, and their memory [illegible]as been worshipped as that of gods after their death. These heroic benefactors of their kind have done well, and yet there is an idea which may be suggested different and, perhaps better than theirs—the idea of lives not spent so as to leave in the worshipping mind of Natives the belief that they have been blessed by the labors of gods, but spent in slow and difficult efforts to raise the Native mind to understand that they live in the company of men whose virtues they might emulate and whose capacity they might strive to copy. An ambitious Governor-General entering upon his office, and eager to make his years of service illustrious, may come to understand that his best sphere of activity is to be found in impressing the minds of the Englishmen around him and subordinate to him, both by his words and his example of each, that their chosen task should be to elevate and strengthen the character of the Natives about them. There is ample evidence for believing that patient perseverance in this course would be rewarded; and even though reward should not be apparent, a Viceroy, looking back upon his career, and conscious of the spirit that directed it, would feel a satisfaction in the retrospect which the greatest of the past Viceroys who have made themselves famous by the extension of the limits of the Empire might have envied."

Yes, if the Viceroy succeeds in infusing a just and generous spirit in his subordinates in the treatment of the people, he is sure to do a world of good. But unfortunately that spirit cannot be infused or fostered without constant supervision and much personal sacrifice, which as experience shews every Viceroy is not prepared to make.

HERE IS an illustration of the *Times'* theory of the treatment of natives, which we take from the *Lucknow Times*:

"On the 28th instant an unfortunate native proceeding to the cavalry lines, where he is employed as a punka coolie, followed his course by the public road which runs past the Sudder Bazzar in front of the mess-house of Her Majesty's 65th Regiment. He had scarcely reached this point when a couple of young officers in a dog-cart drove through the gate of the said building, followed by a ferocious looking dog. They stopped the cart, and such an inhuman scene occurred as it has never been, nor may it ever be, my lot to behold. They hissed their dog on the poor coolie, who shrieked and entreated for mercy: but in vain; these young men officers and supposed to be *gentlemen*, seemed to enjoy their brutal sport, which lasted fully ten minutes, and by this time the dog had played havoc with the bare legs of the unfortunate man who was quietly going to his work. After seeing the poor fellow severely bitten, these brave and gallant soldiers hurried away from the scene of their victory leaving the humble and inoffensive labourer to cry over the pain and suffering inflicted upon him at the instance of British officers, and which will, probably, deprive him of his daily earnings until such time as he may be able to attend to work. These facts are notified in the Sudder Bazaar Police Thanah, and it is to be hoped that their publicity in your valuable journal will be the means of attracting the attention of the Major General Commanding the Division and that ample redress will be the result to the unfortunate man who has been the victim of the cowardly assault."

Was this either manly or gentlemanly? We hope an example will be made of these "gallant officers."

IT IS STATED that the shareholders of the *New York Times* were paid last year a dividend of 100 per cent. upon the original price of the shares. At no time, during the last fifteen years, has the paper paid less than 80 per cent. The paper has been edited for several years by Mr. Jennings, who acted as Editor of the *Friend of India*, and Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times* in 1864-65.

THE EXPRESSION "Printer's devil" is said to have thus originated. Aldus Mauntius was a printer in Venice. He owned a negro boy who helped him in his office, and some people were superstitious enough to believe him an emissary of Satan. He was known over the city as "the little black devil." Desiring to satisfy the curiosity of the populace, he one day publicly exhibited his boy, and proclaimed: "I, Aldus Mauntius, printer to the Holy Church and the Doge, have this day made public exposure of the printer's devil. All who think he is not flesh and blood, come and pinch him."

HERE ARE some remarkable statistics of Protestant missionary labors. It appears that the Protestant Churches maintain collectively 1,559 missionary stations and 2,132 missionaries, whose labors cover a field inhabited by 1,537,074 Christians and 3,89,059 pupils of missionary establishments. The annual expenditure incurred by this staff amounts to £1,107,314. Of the 1,559 missionaries referred to, 1,060 are English, 502 German or Swiss, 460 Americans, 43 Dutch, 22 French, and 45 Scandinavian. England is supposed to expend annually £615,000 upon missionary purposes; America £356,000; Germany and Switzerland £107,000 Holland £18,000, France and Scandinavia, comprising the three northern Kingdoms, £1,700. In return for this outlay the missionary army have a total to shew of 1,536,811 converts.

THE MELBOURNE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY has lately been a scene of distraction and disgrace:—it ended with the imprisonment of a member, named Mr. Mckean for a week, by the Sergeant-at-Arms. The prisoner defied the speaker, and insulted the members generally. The *Argus* says: "The disorderly conduct which has prevailed in the Legislative Assembly during the past two months has culminated in more than one discreditable scene. Uncomplimentary epithets have been unsparingly bandied about between members. The lie has been constantly exchanged, and references to dark spots in the private character of each other have been of frequent occurrence. Debate has degenerated into abuse, and whilst the financial position of the colony requires the most serious and careful consideration, members can find no more congenial occupation than in destroying each other's reputation. Neither side of the House can be altogether freed from blame, but beyond all question, the lowering of the tone of the Assembly is to be attributed to the reckless conduct of the members of the late Berry Administration." This is Representative Government with a vengeance.

WOMEN-CLERKS seem to have proved a success in America in connection with the Post Office. The Post Master of the Boston Post Office says that "they have proved far superior to men in looking up missent and misdirected letters, and in making returns to the dead-letter office. They have also proved truly reliable. There has not been a single instance in nine years, where the accounts of any woman have shown a deficiency of 1 dollar in the Boston Post Office." So woman is superior to man!

TUESDAY, 9TH MAY.

THE LUCKNOW WITNESS says that indications multiply that the "Spelling Bee" though somewhat foreign to this climate is gradually becoming domesticated in India. Such a gathering took place in a Missionary's house at Madras the other day and a number of Hindoos participated with credit. At another Missionary's house in Lucknow last week there was a very enjoyable time in the same line. We note in the Allahabad correspondence of a Roman Catholic contemporary reference to similar proceedings at the capital of the N. W. P. From still other places the same news comes. So it may fairly be considered that India also has succumbed to the attack of this marvellous "Bee," and is likely to improve its spelling in consequence. But the "Spelling Bee" is not a new institution in Bengal. Our Hindu readers on this side of the country are doubtless aware of the hot contest in spelling among school-boys present at weddings. This was one form of pleasure in which they delighted on matrimonial occasions, but the University system is rather driving it out of fashion.

THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT haspublished the scale of travelling allowances for members of council and secretaries to Governments proceeding to the hills, and a local journal compares these with the actual travelling expenses in such a way as to show that a member of council pockets Rs. 386 by the trip. The *Pioneer* says that "this result has been arrived at by omitting all notice of the 'establishment'" which has to be dragged up, and all the expenses of the journey, except the bare fares. But we do not clearly understand our contemporary. What does he mean by the "establishment?"—the domestic establishment of the member? Are other officers of Government allowed charge for carrying their domestic establishments?

THE FOLLOWING is the result of the last Opium sale:

	Chests.	Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	Proceeds.
Behar	2,235	1,285	1,280	1,282 0 2	28,65,300 0 0
Benares,	1,685	1,245	1,235	1,236 14 1	20,84,150 0 0

MR. KURZ, the Curator of the Herbarium in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, in an interesting report on the vegetable products of Pegu, expresses his belief that the mahogany tree may be raised on such alluvial expanses, as the valley of the Irrawaddy, "though the tree loses its seeding qualities to a great extent, probably on account of its being a limestone loving tree" For the same reason, the mahogany which thrives in Bengal, yields tree for tree scarcely one-tenth the quantity of seed which is produced from the mahogany in Honduras.

THE MAHARAJAH of Johore, who has been gazetted G.C.M.G. (Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George), is a Malay prince whose territories adjoin the Straits Settlements. The Maharajah has always been distinguished by his loyalty to the British. During the recent disturbances in Perak he did his best to aid the British Government and carefully excluded all the rebel fugitives from his territories. He is a friend of the Duke of Edinburgh and came to Calcutta in December last to pay his respects to the Prince of Wales. After ex-Sultan Ishmail had surrendered himself, he was conveyed to Singapore and placed under the custody of the Maharajah of Johore, who undertook the responsibility of keeping the ex-rebel in safety.

THE RANGOON GAZETTE has received information that Esau, nephew of Ta-sa-kine, the late Panthay Governor of Momein, who, with about thirty of his officers, died sword in hand in defence of the last stronghold of Panthay, or Mahomedan independence, has been most cordially welcomed by Yakub Khan, the Ruler of Kashgar, and appointed to a military command. Yakub Khan, we hear, has expressed his hope that more of the Panthay refugees would succeed in making their way to Kashgar where they would obtain military employment.

THE QUESTION of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, which the law of England still refuses to sanction, has lately come before the British public in a guise not less perplexing than novel. Under the existing state of the law, a lady having her undoubted husband in Australia, and bearing him children, if she transfers her home to England, finds that the English law regards her as not married, and treats her children as illegitimate. A deputation waited upon the Colonial Secretary on the subject, Mr. Lowe being its chief spokesmen. Lord Carnarvon did not however seem to think that a clear case of hardship had been made out. The Government of India has lately issued a circular to the effect that in this country under the law marriage with a deceased wife's sister among British subjects, who are Christians, is invalid, but this law does not apply to Native Christians. So it is the colour and not the creed, which tempers the law in this case.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH MAY.

MR. B. SCOONES, the well-known crammer, has written a letter to the *Spectator* on the subject of the Indian Civil Service Examination in which he recommends the maximum age of candidates to be fixed at 20. He says:

"Would it not be advisable to compromise the matter by extending the competitive age to twenty, thus consulting the interests both of the present high intellectual standard, and the future prospects of the youths who fail in the competition? This would in nowise interfere with the Government proposals respecting the further training of probationers at the University."

We are of opinion that no compromise will do. Fix the age at 23 and require a preliminary University training in the candidate, and it will be all right.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR of the Punjab draws the following conclusions from the agricultural statistics of the province:

(1) Sales of land for debt in execution of decrees of Court were almost unknown: only one sale of ancestral land was sanctioned in 1873.

(2) That the number of voluntary sales of land averaged less than 6,000 per annum, *so that as the proprietors of land*

number 2,006,670, only one proprietor out of 334 parts with land in the year ;
(3) That the number of mortgages averages less than 15,000 in the year, being at the rate of one mortgage to 133 proprietors ;
(4) That the aggregate area of assessed land annually transferred by private sale amounted, on an average to less than one acre per square mile ; that during the past year there were only six districts in which more than one acre per square mile was transferred, and in only a single district more than two acres per square mile ;
(5) That, on an average, not more than two acres per square mile were annually mortgaged, that last year (1873) in only 7 districts did the number of acres exceed 3 per square mile, and of these districts 5 are among the most prosperous and wealthy in the province ;
(6) That the value of land is steadily rising in the market, and last year averaged 28½ years' purchase of the Government assessment.

Is not the high value of land due to some extent to the obstacles thrown in the way of alienation?

A NEW CHINESE giant arrived at Shanghai on the 5th April, per steamer *Shingking*, from Chefoo, who is taller than even Chang. He measures seven feet four inches and weighs 340lbs. He will proceed shortly to America for exhibition.

MR. MACALISTER has been appointed Consul General of America at Calcutta *vice* Mr. Litchfield.

A REUTER'S telegram from St. Petersburg says that the addition of the title "Empress of India" to that of Queen of Great Britain and Ireland is considered in political circles there to be entirely warranted by existing circumstances, and it is stated that immediately after the royal proclamation shall have been promulgated official expression will be given in London to this view of Russia.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the last annual report of the Nagpore Medical School. The Principal reports :

"No change has taken place in the staff of teachers since last report. Babu Judu Nath Ghose who joined early in June last has shown himself to be a careful and painstaking teacher, and has given me much satisfaction. Babu Kali Krishna Ghose has also distinguished himself as a steady and painstaking teacher. I am glad I am again able to speak in high praise of the zeal and efficiency of Babu Judub Kissen Ghose, and my best thanks are as usual due to him for the careful and energetic way in which he has conducted his duties and which has already on previous occasions earned for him the commendation of the Chief Commissioner. The harmonious manner in which the three teachers have worked together and the respect they have obtained from their pupils has been a great satisfaction to me, and I hope they may long continue at their several posts. Hospital Assistant Abdul Kureem Khan, who was appointed last year as Assistant to the Teacher of Anatomy and Surgery, is altogether a new and young hand. He has tried to do his best and given satisfaction."

The Chief Commissioner thus remarks upon the above :

"It has afforded the Chief Commissioner much satisfaction to learn that the teaching of the School is so efficient, and from his personal knowledge he is able to endorse much of what you say in commendation of the teachers. Assistant Surgeon Judub Kissen Ghose gave 122 lectures. Assistant Surgeon Kali Krishna Ghose 136, and Assistant Surgeon Jadu Nath Ghose 255 lectures. The Chief Commissioner would like in future to know whether you, as Principal, also deliver lectures to the students or whether you confine yourself to examinations, or merely to general supervision and control of the School. On these matters he is at present only imperfectly informed."

The Chief Commissioner thus concludes his Resolution :

"On the whole the Chief Commissioner believes that the Nagpur Medical School is in a good and satisfactory condition ; it is now recruited in pretty equal proportions from Hindus and Mussulmans ; a Maratha Brahmin student is no longer a rare and exceptional case : prejudice against anatomical pursuits is not heard of, year by year a fair number of students gain admission into Government service ; the teaching staff is good, and the library and other accessories of the institution flourishing."

This is highly satisfactory.

MR. D. S. WHITE, who has lately published a work entitled the "Recollections of an ex-detective of Madras" has the following about Madras women :

"But the Telugu woman has a single charm in which she excels her sister to a remarkable extent, individual against individual, or class against class, and that is the charm of figure. I have had experience in various parts of the Presidency, and while remarking, and wondering at the symmetrical waist and hips of Telugu women (I include Canarese women), I did not fail to try and discover how they came about. It was nature, of course, but nature amended. The really beautiful shape is about the loins, which is commenced almost from infancy ; and it is possible that now, through the laps of ages, unconscious physical development has become the valuable supplement of art. As a rule too, Telugu women have fairer skins than Tamil women."

THE LINGUIST states that as many as eleven millions of Hindus now speak and write English. We should like to know where has the writer got his figures from?

THURSDAY, 11TH MAY.

WE HAVE received a letter from Bombay stating that a company has been projected by the Arya Samaj of that place for the purpose of promoting the publication of translations in Hindustani of the original texts of the Vedas and such other ancient literature as may found useful for the elucidation of the religion of the Aryans. The idea of the company originated with Swami Dayanund Saraswati, which will start with a capital of Rs. 20,000 divided into 200 shares of rupees one hundred each. Fifty shares have been already taken up in Bombay and several monthly contributions have been promised from Poona and Ahmedabad. We wish the project every success.

A COOCH BEHAR correspondent informs us that the State in view to the introduction of the Mofussil Municipal Act into the capital city has applied to the Commissioner for sanction. The Municipal Board will consist of the officers of the State including the Dewan and the civil, criminal, educational and police officers. The Municipal Regulation has been drawn up by Babu Kalicadas Dutt, the Dewan.

WE MEET with an apt illustration of our argument against the Mofussil Municipalities being made to contribute the bulk of its resources to the support of the Police in the accounts of the Bissenpore municipality. Bissenpore in the Bankura District realises Rs. 225 per month as its municipal collection, of this Rs. 111 is appropriated by the police, and of the balance a part goes to the maintenance of the establishment and the residue a few rupees is devoted to conservancy purposes and to the support of a dispensary The result is that this ancient town is miserably in want of passable roads—those that are in existence are out of order.

A CORRESPONDENT from Khurruckpore gives a fearful account of the havoc committed by cholera in that poor town. There are 12 or 13 cases of attack every day and the deaths are from half to three-fourths of the cases.

AN AMETA Correspondent mentions a rumour for the excavation of a canal for joining the Goozoorpore canal with the Oolooharia one. The rumour is based on the fact of a survey having been made of the Kadova field.

WE WATCH with intense anxiety the state of the weather and prospects of the crops, but the official report furnishes us with no cheering news. The only places of which favorable mention is made are Bogra, Julpigoree Cooch-Behar and Dacca. Except in these places there has been either literally no rain in some districts or very slight and partial rain in others. One thing in the report which gives some hope is that the health of the country generally is on the whole satisfactory. In the early part of the season Malda mangoes promised to thrive abundantly but the drought has blighted the prospects of the crop. There is little hope of the early rice in most places, and til, sugar cane, and other crops of the seasons have almost no chance.

THE LAST CALCUTTA GAZETTE records another instance of liberality on the part of a native gentleman for the furtherance of native education. Raja Luchman Prosad Gorgo of Mysadul has offered to make an endowment for founding a scholarship of Rs. 5 a month to be awarded to the best student of the Midnapore High School, who fails to obtain a Government scholarship at the First Arts examination. The Raja proposes to invest Rs. 2000 in the Calcutta Municipal Debentures at 6 per cent. in the joint names of the Director of Public Instruction and the Collector of Midnapore. The Government has accepted the offer and thanked the Raja for his liberality.

FRIDAY, 12TH MAY.

THOSE who have seen only the Hooghly bore have no idea of what the bore at Noakhally is. A writer in the *Statistical Reporter* gives the following account of it :

"A remarkable feature of the Noakholly district is the "bore or tidal wave that traverses the channels leading into the Megna. It makes all the water dangerous at times from the Bhawanigunge khal to the east coast of the Sandeep channel. At every full and new moon, specially at the time of the equinoxes, the bore lasts for some days before and after, and has to be carefully reckoned with by those whose business is on the water. The tides as it runs up the Bay, is confronted by Sandeep and Hattiya and the chars between, and the current is divided. The main current speeds away to the right up the Fenny rivers, and the remainder round by the coast to the west where north of Hatiya, it is met by the left or counter current, which after sweeping round Hattiya, has been deflected in that direction by the west coast. The united volume of the water rushes on like a white wall from 14 to 20 feet high at a pace of about 15 miles an hour, until exhausted at the northern limit above the Bhowanigunge khal as far as Raepore on the Dacoitee. As the course of an earthquake can be marked by the outcry of the people, so the loud shouting of "ban, ban" warns the approach of the flood. The expanse of water is wrinkled and rippled far ahead, while the white-crested wave is seen, and the roar of the water heard, coming along some five or six miles off. There is a regular scare. Birds fly off from the banks, and the alligators swim out into the deep water; the boats high and dry far up the khals are quickly uplifted and afloat, and the crews work anxiously and hard for the safety of their boats, even in these sheltered creeks, till the flood has passed, and then only can the boats venture on the course. The bore is the creation of the chars ; but beside this there are whirlpools occasionally formed, and strong eddies and rushes of water are encountered in the channels about the islands in bad weather, specially when there is a strong southerly wind at the beginning and at the end of the rains. The water is then sometimes blown in heap and rolled miles in on the islands and on the mainland.

The mention of the bore reminds us of a racy anecdote. One day the great orator, Mr. George Thompson, in company with some native friends, the late Babu Ramgopal Ghose and others, was cruising in a boat on the Hooghly, when on a sudden the boat-men gave an alarm saying—"the bore is coming on." Hearing this George Thompson exclaimed—"Talk of the Hooghly bore! I who have borne the bore of a Speed (Dr Speed) donot fear to face any other bore!" Happily he did not try with the Noakhally bore!

THE LONDON EXAMINER has a feeling article on the Indian Tour of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. We give the following extract from it :

"Did any Prince, however, ever go over historic portions of his future dominions with so little outward regard for records so marvellous as mementoes of past ages that philosophers and historians—nay, all grave and calm observers—stand amazed at the very sight of them, or with so few opportunities for seeing below the surface of the curious sea of human life which renders India unlike any other part of the world? The native newspapers, in Calcutta, at all events, say that the intelligent natives of Bengal never came in contact with the Prince at all. We wonder if His Royal Highness knows anything of the sort of men they are who were thus passed over. There are among them some of the most accomplished gentlemen in the world. Whenever Indian address some time ago was presented with reference to Mr. Fawcett's election at Brighton a young Hindoo, then at Cambridge, was called upon to speak, quite unexpectedly, and without the slightest preparation, and we believe Mr. Fawcett has since declared that there were not half-a-dozen members of the House of Commons who could have made such a speech, and that, with the exception of some of Mr. Bright's best speeches, he never heard a more simple, telling, finished appeal to any body of men. The rule laid down in India has been as was predicted when the public knew who were to be the Prince's associates of his tour He fell naturally into the hands of members of the Government, whose first duty it was to prevent his being, "bored." There was an evident understanding that the arrangements must "fit;" that what His Royal Highness wished to see he should see ; that what he wished explained should be explained ; that suggestions should be made with delicacy, and not repeated, in short, that there should be a gala fit for a Prince, and on a scale of unequalled grandeur. We do not blame the members of the Civil Service, or the able military officers of India. We lay the blame on the arrangements for the Royal tour. Sir Bartle Frere, of course, is a man of the highest character, but a statesman or two of the first position—say, for, instance, Lord Derby, Mr. Bright, Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Robert Rourke, with one or two men like Professor Max Muller and above all Sir Henry Maine—would have converted the tour into an affair of State, and made it worthy of Mr. Disraeli's "high policy." This, it may be said, would have been tedious work for the Prince, or might perhaps have been calculated to divert attention from him. It need have been neither the one nor the other. It would have taken from his shoulders those affairs of State which we maintain it was necessary to consider, and no man in England however eminent, would have diverted any proper attention from the Prince of Wales."

We repeat the Prince saw the empire—whitewashed!

EN ROUTE to England Sir Salar Jung paid a visit to His Holiness the Pope, and was very graciously received. The first Indian, who visited the Pope, was the late Babu Dwarkanath Tagore.

THE BANGALORE EXAMINER brings some serious charges against Colonel Malleson in charge of the Mysore Prince. The first charge is this :

"Colonel Malleson, in direct defiance of those caste prejudices and social customs, which the Government has pledged itself to respect in the case of the very meanest of its subjects, engaged a house at Ooty, one half for himself and his friends, and the other for the Rajah and his suite. The Maharajah has not yet been converted to Christianity or whatever particular form of faith Colonel Malleson professes and that officer's experience of this country should have told him that in housing himself under the same roof as a high caste native, we say nothing of his rank and position, he was acting in a manner to deeply offend the legitimate prejudices of his royal charge and of the native of Mysore in general.

The second charge is as follows :

"That Colonel Malleson and his freinds after dinner are in the habit of sending for the young Prince and his brothers, mere lads be it remembered, and endeavouring to force them to partake of refreshments, and on the lads naturally refusing, horse play has followed, which in the case of one of the young brothers of the Rajah forced him to fly in perfect terror from Ooty to Mysore in a common cart."

These are very serious charges, and ought to be investigated by Government.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Indian Daily News* reports the following case of Police oppression :

A case of wanton police oppression committed by Inspector——of——Thannah on a young Hindoo widow of Poddopookur, who inherited a little fortune on the death of her sister, has created considerable excitement. The Inspector, with his darogah, jemadar, and a number of constables, entered the house of the young lady at about midnight, plundered her of the last penny she had on earth, stripped her of her clothes, abused her, insulted her, and threatened to torture her if she would not shew them where her properties were concealed. The Inspector of Chitpore Thannah, assisted by the Inspector of Baniapocur, made a sifting investigation into the case. They have submitted an elaborate report to the Magistrate of Sealdah, giving a detailed account of the high-handed proceeding of the Inspector and his underlings as were elicited by the enquiries. On the perusal of this report the Magistrate, I am told, has secured the suspension of the delinquents.

The case is *sub judice*.

MR. HOME the celebrated spiritualist, is dead. He was one of the earliest pioneers in the spiritualistic movement. It was he who afforded Professor Crookes, Sergeant Cox, Lord Lindsay, and other scientific men, the means of investing the spiritualistic phenomena with a rational philosophy, which resulted in many of them adopting the theory that a subtle agent called psychic force existed in Nature.

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SATURDAY, 13TH MAY.

BEWARE, ye drinkers of cheap brandy! On Saturday last, seventy or eighty cases of native liquor were seized by the Customs authorities at Bombay. The bottles bore European brands and labels and were intended for European consumption, but contained nothing but a vile country spirit known as *Bewrah*, coloured so as to look like brandy, with which the native merchant had filled them after removing the original Exshaw or Hennessy. It seems that this practice has been going on for a long time without being detected—in fact it appears to be a regular trade at Bombay to import European brandy, empty the bottles, refill them with poisonous stuff coloured to look like genuine, and then re-export them to Calcutta and Madras.

WE REGRET to learn that cholera continues to ravage some parts of Southern India with relentless severity. It is especially severe at present in the district of Kristnagherry; and the week before last, nearly 270 deaths occurred from this disease in the Oosoor district. During the year 1875-76, very nearly 129,000 persons died of cholera within the territories dependent upon the Government of Fort St. George. The disease was most severe in Tanjore where over one per cent. of the population perished during the year. Coimbatore, South Arcot, and Trichinopoly follow next in order; and the disease was bad in all the Southern Collectorate, the Northern parts of the Presidency having suffered very little.

IT is said that a tour has been planned for the Prince of Wales in Australia and New Zealand to take place in 1878, so that H. R. H. may be able to say when he is called to the throne that he has travelled over every portion of his vast Empire.

ANOTHER attempt to trace the sources of the Nile is to be made by a party of men of science under the auspices of the Italian Geographical Society. This expedition consisting of the Marquis Antinori and Messrs. Chiarini and Martini, has left Cairo for Aden. They expect to be absent four years, and the scene of their labours in equatorial Africa will be chiefly directed to the country between the Kingdom of Sirah and Lake Victoria-Nyanza.

WE TAKE the following Church statistics from the *Indian Daily News*:

"The number of places of worship in England and Wales connected with the Establishment is 18,000 or 19,000 while those of other churches number 23,000. The Methodists of the Old Connection have 7,500, the United Methodists 1,210, the New Connection 417. Primitive Methodists 6,445, Congregationalists 4118 Baptists 3217 Roman Catholics 1061 and Unitarians 320 As to the church income, bishopries are endowed with about 155,000*l* and Cathedrals with about 300,000*l*; the yearly value of livings is about 4,500,000*l* (the Clergy List says 3,719,000*l*,) added to which is the offertory contributions, which amount to 4,000,000*l* exclusive of private subscriptions. The Nonconformist churches are supposed to cost about 6,000,000*l* a year and the aggregate income of church and chapel building societies, Bible missionary societies &c is about 1,700,000*l*. The total amount contributed for religious purposes is thought to be about 16,000,000*l*

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 5th May.—With reference to the denial given in the name of the Queen by Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Lowe has apologized, and retracted the statement he made respecting two of Her Majesty's former Ministers having been requested to propose a new title for Her Majesty. In reply to a question in the House of Commons last evening, Lord George Hamilton explained that the new Four Per Cent. Loan was larger than the Budget Statement because it has been found necessary to provide besides for public works for the deficient yield of Secretary of States Council Bills during the last year also, and for a possible deficiency during the current year Telegraphic communication with the United States is for the present interrupted, in consequence of the breakage of the Anglo-American cables.

6th May.—In the House of Commons last night, in replying to a question of Sir Henry Wolff, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he must decline to discuss the question of neutralising the Suez Canal. If the project mooted, Englands holding so many shares of it would greatly facilitate arrangements for reduction.

9th May.—The Great Powers are sending iron clads to the Gulf of Salonica, and the Porte has reinforced the garrison of Salonica and promised to French and German Embassies full preparation for the recent outrage. The Government Merchants Shipping Bill has passed through the Committee of the House of Commons. The total exports of British produce and merchandize from the United Kingdom during the past month show a decrease of £4,500,000, as compared with the same period of last year.

9th May.—Replying to a question of Mr. Henry Cust in the House of Commons this evening, Lord George Hamilton said no doubt Government would give its favourable consideration to the proposed new bishopric in Northern India, provided that sufficient funds were privately subscribed. Mr. Arthur Birch has been gazetted Lieutenant-Governor of Ceylon.

Berlin 11th May.—Count Andrassy, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, arrived here to-day for the purpose of conferring with Prince Bismarck and Prince Gortschakoff on the Eastern question. A telegram from Saint Petersburg announces the departure of the Czar for this city. The opening of the centenial exhibition at Philadelphia was carried out with great ceremony.

Cario 9th May.—His Highness the Khedive has signed a contract with a group of French Financiers consolidating all debts into bonds bearing interest at 7 per cent: the bonds are issued at 80 to par, redeemable in 65 years.

Madrid 5th May.—The Cortes has voted religious toleration in Spain, notwithstanding the opposition of the Holy See.

Vienna 8th May—There has been some severe rioting in Salonica between the Turks and the Christians, which appears to have originated in the apostacy of the Greek girl. The French and German Consuls were murdered in a mosque. Punishment of the guilty has been promised.

Rome 5th May.—The Rubattino Company's Steamer *Asia* with His Excellency Sir Salar Jung and suite arrived here to-day.—Sir Salar had an audience of the King and the British Ambassador Sir Agustus Paget.

Rome 9th May—His Excellency Sir Salar Jung has been received by the people with great ceremony.

Lisbon, 8th May—The Prince embarked in the *Serapis* for Portsmouth to-day amid much enthusiasm. His Royal Highness has been splendidly feted during his stay here.

Cairo. 9th May.—The Khedives decree relating to the finances of Egypt nominates a European Commission for the control of the revenues.

Philadelphia 4th May—The United States Government has resolved to abrogate the extradition clause in the Ashburton Treaty of 1862, in consequence of the English Government refusing the unconditional extradition of Winslow, an American subject, held in London on a charge of forgery.

Bombay 8th May—The *Times of India* says, under date Alexandria May 8th, an official decree was issued yesterday, by which all loans consolidated at seven per cent, and redeemable in 65 years, taxes and other revenue to the extent of £5,790,845 sterling, will be collected and deposited in the hands of a Public Debt Department, consisting of Commissioners, representing the European Powers, and appointed for five years. The operation of the *muckzbalah* is suspended. There is to be no alteration or diversion of revenues, and no new loans are to be contracted without the consent of the Commissioners.

A CURIOUS judgment has been brought to our notice. A liquor vendor at Rungpore was fined for selling adulterated wine, the Deputy Magistrate convicted him, and the District Magistrate confirmed the conviction in the following terms:

The conviction must stand. It would have been more satisfactory if the question of noxiousness had been more closely gone into but there is sufficient in the record to sustain the conviction. As this is the first prosecution of the kind the sentence of the Court will be kept as it is otherwise, I should have increased the fine very materially.
The brandies will be destroyed.

(SD) E G GLAZIER
Offg Magistrate

The Civil Surgeon of the District had given his opinion that "the brandies were so bad that he could pronounce them to be noxious without chemical examination." But on subsequent analysis the brandies have been pronounced by the analyzers to be "free from adulteration and noxious drugs."

WE BEG to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications:—1. *Sai ek din ar ai ek din* or the Past and the Present of Bengal By Bholanath Chuckerbutty. 2. On Human Sacrifices in Ancient India. By Dr. Rajendralala Mitra. 3. The Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertizer No. 68. 4. An account of the Koch Bihar State. By Captain T. H. Lewin, Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of the State of Koch Bihar. 5 Finance and Revenue Accounts of British India. Part II. May 1866 to March 1874.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 1876.

SIR JOHN STRACHEY'S FIRST YEAR.

WE have had before us for some time past the report of Sir John Strachey's first year's administration of the N. W. P. Sir John assumed office on the 9th April 1874, and held it throughout the year 1874-75. The year began with fears of serious scarcity, if not famine, which were happily not realised. With the setting in of the rains in June all anticipation of any serious disaster disappeared, and by August everything had returned to its normal state. The entire expenditure on account of the scarcity was Rs. 8,40,000, of which Rs. 7,72,860 were spent on relief works, Rs. 5,320 in charitable relief, and Rs. 14,200 were remissions of advances made to merchants for storing grain. These advances were chiefly in Gorakhpur, and amounted to Rs. 91,470, all of which, except the sum remitted, has been recovered. The entire cost of public relief operations was borne by the imperial revenues, but the expenses of certain special charities were defrayed, to the amount of Rs. 50,800, by private contributions.

In other respects Sir Johns first year was a year of routine. He made it his business more to superintend the existing machinary of administration than to originate new measures, or introduce changes of a radical character. We congratulate [illegible]ble of the N. W. P. on the resolution [illegible]overnor. No official [illegible] perhaps [illegible]innovation than [illegible] Sir John [illegible]st, but as the responsible head [illegible]ment of the N. W. P. he probably finds it more advantageous to the people to consolidate what exists than to change for the sake of change. It cannot be denied that Sir John Strachey is a man of great ability, and that he thoroughly understands the provinces over which he has been placed in authority, and when he considers it his duty to follow routine rather than a sensational policy, his example ought to be a warning to the more frothy administrator. The days of what is usually called brilliant administration have passed away; the country has settled down into order, and the ruler, who wishes to do his work quietly and to help the cause of progress and civilization by attending to details, has a large field before him, and can accomplish a great deal, though he cannot make much noise or fuss. The most important duty of the local Government in our humble opinion is to exercise a vigilant supervision over the proceedings of its subordinates, and to keep them in the right path. We must do Sir George Campbell the justice to say that he steadily kept this part of his work in view, and that only when he sought to impregnate the local officers with his own peculiar ideas of Government, setting the executive above the judiciary and vigour of administration above law, disregarding rights of property and creating rights from the bowels of his own consciousness, and repressing the legitimate aspirations of the people, he went wrong. Sir John Strachey has evidently profited by the example of Sir George Campbell and seems to be content with the even tenour of administration. Whispers however now and then reach us to the effect that he leaves a great deal to the departmental heads and the Secretaries, and that he does not do much himself possibly from indifferent health. If this is the case, we cannot but regret it. It is the old story—nothing like the eyes of the master, but if he keeps them shut, things must go wrong.

There is not much in the last administration report of the N. W. P. which calls for special notice. There are however a few points, to which we will draw attention. There was a considerable increase of crime in the N. W. P. in 1874-75. Two new classes of offences, voluntarily causing hurt and mischief by killing or maiming animals worth Rs. 10, were for the first time made cognizable by the police during the year. Deducting these offences the total number of offences registered by the police in 1874 was 87,370, against 84,353, in 1873. Serious crimes have increased considerably in number, such as dacoities, robberies, and grievous hurt. Sir John Strachey, we are surprised to learn, is by no means inclined to draw from this increase in the reported cases of crime unfavourable conclusions as to the working of the police. "It is," says he, "quite as difficult in India to ensure report as conviction of crime; and so long as great stress is laid on success in convictions, it is reasonable to believe that reports of cases in which there seems but little chance of detection will be viewed with disfavour and received with hesitation by the native police officials whose duty it is to record them. There is little doubt that the apparent increase of crime in the year under report is due in great measure to improvement in reporting, and is therefore to be regarded rather with satisfaction than otherwise." We confess we cannot agree with Sir John in this consolatory view. Surely the efficiency of the police does not consist in the supposed detection of crime; if the conviction falls far short of detection the presumption is that the Police have acted with sufficient care and enquiry. The [illegible] object ought to be dear to the [illegible]ry, and if the action of the Police [illegible]rimes were reported and [illegible]ended than were proved [illegible]rt of justice, are we justified [illegible]ir John Strachey does [illegible] of the Police is a "[illegible] satisfactory"? When the head of the [illegible]rnment says that it ought to be "regarded with satisfaction than otherwise," he practically holds out a premium to Police oppression. On the other hand the last annual report of the N. W. P. shews a decrease in litigation in the Civil Courts. In 1874, the civil suits (original and appellate), amounted to 96,864, a decrease of 5,654 on the total of the previous year. Of this number, 86,839 were original suits and 9,925 appeals. The decrease in litigation is chiefly due to the introduction of Act XVIII. of 1873, by which many suits formerly cognizable

by the civil are now heard in the revenue courts. It is also attributed partly to the unwillingness of creditors to press for their money during the early part of the year when prices were unusually high, and partly to the abundant kharif harvest, which assisted many debtors to come to terms with their creditors without the intervention of the courts. Litigation in general decreased, but the number of suits instituted in certain districts has increased, *viz.*, in Saharanpur, Gorakhpur, Benares, and Ghazipur. The courts finally disposed of 96,971 suits and appeals against 103,575 in 1873. Of the total, 50,343 were disposed of without contest and 36.991 after trial. The percentage of contested cases (or cases disposed of) was 38 in 1874, against 40 in 1873 and 39 in 1872. The Courts were however not only self-supporting, but left a large surplus. The income of the civil courts is composed of the following items:—value of stamps (deducting refunds), penalties for insufficiently stamped documents ; fines; surplus from talbana and amins' fee funds. The following tabular statement shows the results for 1873 and 1874 :—

	Value of stamps filed.	Penalties and fines.	Surplus process fees.	Surplus commission fees.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1873...	166,495	581	10,765	9,530	187,371
1874...	161,802	719	10,047	8,538	181,107

Or as the expenditure of the courts throughout the year amounted to £160,735, the result is a net gain to the Government of £20,873, against £3,507 in 1873.

Sir John Strachey, though himself the author of the scheme for Provincial Service Fund, thus records its cardinal defect. He says : "The rigidity of the present system of administering provincial revenues has been frequently pointed out. While the demands of all departments are continually increasing, the annual revenues at the disposal of the Government for provincial purposes remain stationary or nearly so, while the provincial balances have been rapidly falling year by year." The following is a statement of provincial and local rates and taxes :

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL RATES AND TAXES.

	Rs.
Actuals, 1872-73	41,64,205
,, 1873-74	43,02,103
Budget, 1874-75	48,07,120
Actuals, 1874-75	42,96,749

The cesses levied are as follows : 1 local cesses of 10 per cent., 2 road cess, 3 school cess, 4 dak cess, 5 Chowkadari cess. And all these cesses are due to the decentralization of provincial finance.

Sir John Strachey, we are glad to observe, is desirous to take steps with the view of securing to well-educated natives a definite share in the higher posts under the Government. In March, 1875, His Honor notified by a resolution published in the *Gazette* that for the future the posts of Assistant District Superintendent of Police, Inspector of Police, and Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Jhansi Commission would as a rule be reserved for natives of the North-Western Provinces to the exclusion of all other candidates. The vacancies which have occurred since the date of this resolution have accordingly been filled up in the manner indicated.

EGYPT AND INDIA.

THERE are many points of resemblance between Egypt and with India, the principal source of the wealth of Egypt is the land most parts of India agriculture independent of the seasons, on widely-extended, labor of irrigation. Where the quickly relapses into desert. plied, as in Upper Egypt, the Ba and the Bahr Ibrahim, and more to the e the Sweet-water Canal to Ismailla and Su le tracts of land are brought into cultiva India irrigation is of course necessary, tensive works of irrigation have been e but these works are intended to assist The system of landed tenures in Egypt not quite similar to what is prevalent in ough has still some resemblance. Thus all India, cording to Mr. Cave, theoretically belong land, ac- State, as in feudal times in Europe, and s to the large estates were parcelled among similarly the conquering races and charged only with a fixed quit-rent called the dime or ouchur. The remainder of the land is held from the State by communities or individuals on payment of a tax called karadj, which is really a rent, and which was variable, and might at any time be augmented at the will of the Government. This land could not originally be leased, alienated, or devised, but relapsed to the State at each termination of ownership. More liberal and humane laws have been enacted by the present ruler, and the land passes as easily as copyhold in England. Where land belongs to communities, the Sheykh distributes it to families for a year only, which is a great obstacle to industry. Laborers are scarce in Egypt as they are in India. "Laborers for hire," says Mr. Cave," are difficult to be obtained in many places. Almost every man has a small parcel of land to cultivate ; consequently, contractors agree to take a piece of work for so much, and to bring a certain number of hands from various places. They make their terms with the land-owner, who knows no one but the contractor, and it often occurs that the latter, though well and punctually paid, starves and defrauds the labourers in his gang, and great misery and oppression take place, whether the gangs so brought together are of the better sort, who feed themselves and earn, say, 5 piastres a day, most irregularly paid, or whether they are the poorest Fellaheen, obtained by help of the Mudir or Head-man of a district, who are paid nothing, but work from sunrise to sunset for their bare food, and run away at every opportunity." This contract system is not known in India. Here the direct interest which the cultivating classes have in the land saves them from starvation. The redemption of the land-tax has been sanctioned in Egypt. Under the law of Moukabala all landowners could redeem one-half of the land-tax to which they were liable by the payment of six years' tax, either in advance in one sum or in instalments. Those who paid down this contribution in one sum received an immediate reduction of their tax ; those who elected to make the payment in instalments receive a discount of 8⅓ per cent. on their advance, and the reduction only takes place on the completion of their contribution. The most important industry is the cultivation of the sugar-cane and the manufacture of sugar ; 40,000 acres are planted with canes, and there are 12 large factories with most elaborate machinery at work. But this industry, it seems, is not satisfactorily managed. Very large factories were built before the land was ready to supply them. They have not been placed in the middle of the estates, but near the main railway ; consequently, the canes have to be brought many miles by locomotives to the factories, involving a large consumption of coal and making supervision more difficult. Some factories, full of costly machinery, have been abandoned, others left unfinished with the machinery already on the spot ; steam machinery for irrigation has been erected and never used. And all this has been done as we gather at the expense of the State. In the 13 years of Ismail Pasha's rule the quantity of cotton exported has been 3·6 times that of the exportation of the preceding 13 years, or an increase of 257 per cent. The fall in price has caused disappointment, and may check production, it being now doubted whether corn does not pay better than cotton. At the same time improved machinery enables cotton to be more effectually separated from the seed, from which oil and cake are now largely made. In the general returns of exports and imports there is also a marked improvement. The total value of imports from 1863 to 1875 amounts to £61939,736, against, from 1850 to 1862, £29,641,155, showing an advance of 100 per cent. in 13 years. Exports have quadrupled during the same period, having increased in value from £36,339,543 to £145,939,736. During the 13 years the growth of the population of Egypt has been considerable, the births having exceeded the deaths by 636,809. Education has been carefully attended to, the number of schools established on an Europ model having increased from 185 in 1861 in 1875. In the latter year there were with In th s, and 140,977 an 6,048 m the previou augmentation

schools, 1,615 masters, and 27,722 pupils. The quality of the education given necessarily varies, but it has on the whole decidedly improved, and is in some cases of a very superior character, Thus Egypt has many elements of progress and prosperity, but its finances are in a desperate condition, and as in India the Public Works expenditure has been the cause of its approaching bankruptcy.

The loans have been contracted at ruinous interest. None of the Egyptian loans cost less than 12 per cent. per annum, while some cost more than 13¼ per cent. per annum, and the railway loans even 26·9 per cent. per annum, including sinking funds. The debtor and creditor account of the State, from 1864 to 1875, stands thus :—

RECEIPTS.	£
By Revenue	94,281,401
Loans	31,713,987
Sale of Suez Canal Shares	3,976,583
Floating Debt	18,243,076
	148,215,047

EXPENDITURE.	£
Administration	48,868,491
Tribute to the Porte	7,592,872
Works of utility, &c.	30,240,053
Extraordinary expenses—some of questionable utility, and others under pressure of interested parties	10,539,545
Interests and Sinking Funds	34,898,962
Suez Canal	16,075,119
	148,215,047

Mr. Cave proposes the following remedy for the approaching financial collapse of Egypt :

"As, therefore, every security of real value is pledged, and as, without the means for meeting the floating debt, a very serious crisis in the financial affairs of Egypt must take place, which would be fatal to the interests of the bondholders under her various loans, it would seem that the most feasible mode of averting the danger would be to buy up, for the purpose of consolidation, the loans of 1868 and 1873, and the bonds of the floating debt. By this means the revenues now pledged would be liberated, and would be available as securities for a new loan, to be issued at a moderate rate of interest.

There is, however, an essential condition on which the success of some scheme of this character depends, namely, that the Khedive should place a person who would command general confidence, such for instance as the financial agent sent out by Her Majesty's Government to take employment under his Highness, at the head of a Control Department which should receive direct from the tax collector certain branches of the revenue to be defined, but comprising the land-tax and Moukabala, and should have a general supervision of the incidence and levying of the taxes."

Mr. Cave's plan of operations is this :

"As concerns the funded debt, the interest on the nominal amount of the loans with which alone we have now to deal is not excessive ; but the sinking funds add to it a yearly charge which is too heavy for the revenue. Were the term of repayment deferred, this charge would be lightened ; it is, therefore, suggested that an offer might be made to the bondholders of these loans of a new stock at 7 per cent., repayable by the year 1926, instead of the bonds they now hold redeemable from 1892 to 1903. The inducement to these bondholders to accept the deffered payment would be the security given for the punctual payment of the debt charges, by the special Control Department, to be instituted by the Khedive as above described. A condition of the arrangement would be the transfer of the resources of the country the service of special loans to the service of the whole debt.

It may be expected that if the gravity of the situation is explained to the bondholders they will consent to an arrangement for securing to them a fair return on thier money, and saving them from the heavy loss inseparable from a financial collapse.

The permanent charges of the Budget are :—

Tribute to Constantinople	£685,308
Interest on Suez Canal Shares till 1895	198,829
Administration (including Civil List of his Highness and family)	3,067,560
	£3,951,697
Say	4,000,000
The Revenue of 1876 to 1885 should be	10,689,000
Less the Moukabala (which we propose to deal with separately)	1,531,000
	£9,158,000
Deduct the permanent charge...	4,000,000
The charge for interest and Sinking Fund ...	4,761,817
Leaves a working surplus of	396,183
But in 1886 and subsequent years we have shown that the revenue will be only (except the growth that may be expected in the future)	£3,473,000
Deduct permanent charge	4,000,000
	4,473,000
Service of debt	4,761,817
Leaving a deficit of	288,817

"This deficit might be dealt with by reserving the produce of the Moukabala receipts. These receipts will be £15,31 18 a year until the end of 1885,"

This scheme is excellent, but every thing will depend upon honest administration. Mr. Cave himself admits that "immense sums are expended

on unproductive works after the manner of the East, and on productive works carried out in the wrong way, or too soon. This last is a fault which Egypt shares with other new countries (for she may be considered a new country in this respect), a fault which has seriously embarrassed both the United States and Canada; but probably nothing in Egypt has ever approached the profligate expenditure which characterized the commencement of the railway system in England." He continues: "We were informed that one of the causes which operates most against the honesty and efficiency of native officers is the precarious tenure of office. From the Pashas downwards every office is a tenancy at will, and experience shows that while dishonesty goes wholly or partially unpunished, independence of thought and action, resolution to do one's duty and to resist the peculation and neglect which pervade every department, give rise to intrigues which, sooner or later, bring about the downfall of honest officials. Consequently, those who begin with a desire to do their duty give way before the obstructiveness which paralyzes every effort. The public servant of Egypt, like the Roman Proconsul, too often tries to make as much as he can out of his office while it lasts, and the scandal takes place of the retirement in a few years with a large fortune of men whose salary is perhaps £40 a month, and who have plundered the Treasury on the one hand and the peasant on the other."

In this respect Egypt has much to learn from India. The great defect of Egypt has been the want of a high tone amongst its officials, but they must be paid well and regularly before they can be expected to be honest. Now that England has offered her advice to the Khedive, we hope she will insist upon a proper remuneration of its servants and the honest application of its revenues. Whether with an individual or a nation there can be no true prosperity without honesty, The financial position of Egypt ought also to be a warning to India. Our Government is annually increasing its debt for the execution of works of public utility, and it is time that it should look about itself. Indebtedness is not necessarily a sign of national prosperity.

HOW OUR RAILWAYS PAY.

WE have before us the statistics relating to Indian Railways up to the end of 1874. In 1865 the whole length of Indian Railways was 3,369 miles; in 1874 it rose to 6,192, or nearly double. The progress of Railway communications in India has thus been most rapid. We give below the length of each line in 1865 and in 1874:

RAILWAYS.	1865. Miles.	1874. Miles.
GUARANTEED.		
East Indian (including Jubbulpore branch) ..	1129	1504
Eastern Bengal...	110	158
Oudh and Rohilkund		539
Sindh ...	105	
Punjab ...	253	667
Delhi ...	...	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	702	1278
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India ...	305	406
Madras ...	611	858
South India:		
Great Southern of India ..	79	187
Carnatic ..	19	
Nulhattee ..	28	28
Khamgaon ...	...	8
Oomrawuttee		6
Rajpootana		291
Patree branch of Bombay and Baroda line		22
Holkar		57
Wurda Valley		18
Tirhoot		18
Nizam's		119
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ..	28	28
	3369	6192

The passenger traffic as a matter of course doubled in 1874 from what it was in 1865, to wit:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	1865. Persons.	1874. Persons.
East Indian, Main line ...	4,154,945	5,792,052
,, Jubbulpore line ...	....	239,177
Eastern Bengal ...	1,155,291	1,537,499
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	.....	1,994,890
Sindh ...	112,047	
Punjab ...	436,091	
Delhi ...	.....	2,120,785
Great Indian Peninsula ..	3,413,116	3,130,094
Bombay, Baroda and Central India ...	1,318,868	3,737,096
Madras ...	1,628,293	2,772,864
South Indian :—		
Great Southern of India		1,517,544
Carnatic ...	.....	
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	292,471	435,218
Nulhattee ...	.....	69,870
Khamgaon		7,805
Oomrawuttee		44,969
Rajpootana		685,589
Holkar		109,477
Nizam's		75,568
Wurda Valley		9,962
Total...	12,826,518	24,280,459
Season Ticket Holders not included above.....		17,420

The following is a comparative table of goods traffic:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	1865. Tons.	1874. Tons.
East Indian, Main line ...	694,758	1,632,562
,, Jubbulpore line ...	....	174,604
Eastern Bengal ..	88,054	329,037
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	.. ..	209,004
Sindh ..	27,548	
Punjab ...	48,339	492,008
Delhi ..	...	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	884,688	852,335
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India ..	85,730	267,522
Madras ...	268,573	370,566
South Indian :—		
Great Southern of India ...	38,507	122,230
Carnatic ...	.....	
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	15,906	29,574
Nulhattee ...	.....	12,867
Khamgaon		26,199
Oomrawuttee		29,409
Rajpootana		116,942
Holkar		17,547
Nizam's		4,837
Wurda Valley		9,881
Total.....	2,152,103	4,696,624
Number of Live Stock..... ...		474,437

The gross receipts of each Railway in India in 1865 and 1874 were as under:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	1865. £	1874. £
East Indian, Main Line ...	1,442,104	3,187,646
,, Jubbulpore line	..	235,037
Eastern Bengal ..	112,840	365,931
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	.....	200,402
Sindh ...	82,493	
Punjab ..	25,240	682,250
Delhi ...	.....	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	870,296	1,848,548
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India ...	199,342	537,021
Madras ...	349,457	541,429
South Indian :—		
Great Southern of India ...	30,818	88,896
Carnatic ...	.....	
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	8,613	9,120
Nulhattee ...	.....	7,803
Khamgaon		2,467
Oomrawuttee		2,786
Rajpootana		56,678
Holkar		10,319
Wurda Valley		1,927
Nizam's		10,508
Total	3,121,713	7,788,768

The following statement gives the gross expenses of each Railway in 1865 and 1874 respectively:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	1865. £	1874. £
East Indian, Main Line ..	670,005	1,125,725
,, Jubbulpore ..	... ..	100,081
Eastern Bengal ...	54,094	189,210
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	.....	129,082
Sind ...	78,986	415,807
Punjab ..	19,241	
Delhi ...	.....	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	555,670	1,093,820
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India ..	158,731	279,878
Madras ..	177,817	350,124
South Indian :—		
Great Southern of India ...	16,107	54,055
Carnatic ...	.....	
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	11,412	7,145
Nulhattee ...	.....	5,245
Khamgaon ..	.....	2,002
Oomrawutte ..	.....	3,753
Rajpootana ..	.....	45,517
Holkar ...	.....	8,688
Wurda Valley ...	.....	2,022
Nizam's ...	.....	9,885
	1,742,063	3,831,039

The following statement shews the withdrawals out of capital for expenditure on each guaranteed Railway, and capital outlay, whether from ordinary or extraordinary funds, or from contributions by native chiefs on each State Railway:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	Up to the 30th of April 1866. £	Total to the 31st of March 1874. £
East Indian, Main line	22,450,456	30,605,903
,, Jubbulpore line...	1,664,011	3,008,690
Eastern Bengal	1,726,036	48,37,820
Oudh and Rohilkund		
Sindh ...	2,426,084	10,275,048
Punjab ...	2,357,660	
Delhi ...	838,885	
Great Indian Peninsula.....	13,866,551	23,233,143
Bombay Baroda, and Central India	6,209,050	7,805,053
Madras	7,773,205	10,153,308
South Indian:		
Great Southern of India.....	1,060,423	1,851,590
Carnatic	..	173,828
Total Guaranteed	60,372,361	91,943,413
Calcutta and South-Eastern...	509,664	61,943,413
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern...	..	616,181
Nulhattee.....	...	29,954
Northern Bengal	..	46,530
Punjab Northern	...	1,396,224
Indus Valley	...	986,904
Rajpootana lines.....	..	1,383,089
Holkar	...	521,652
Scindia	...	9,591
Neemuch	...	171,123
Khamgaon	...	48,530
Oomrawuttee	...	43,734
Wurda Valley	..	137,811
Nagpore and Chutteesghur ...	...	8,744
Hooblee and Carwar	...	55,197
Moradabad, Deobund and Roorkee	...	2,849
Nizam's.....	...	871,639
Mysore	...	11,624
Rangoon and Irrawaddy Valley	..	3,355
Campoolee branch ..	...	1,314
Tirhoot	...	97,867
Total State		6,443,912
Total Capital Outlay on all Railways in India ...	60,372,361	98,387,325

The following table shews the percentage of gross expenses to gross receipts of each Railway in 1865 and 1874:

	Years ended 30th June 1865.	Years ended 31st Dec 1874.
GUARANTEED.	£	£
East Indian, Main line ...	46·46	35·31
,, Jubbulpore line ..	...	42·58
Eastern Bengal ...	47·93	54·17
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	...	64·41
Sindh ...	95·74	
Punjab ...	76·20	60·95
Delhi ...	...	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	63·84	59·17
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.	79·42	52·12
Madras ...	50·88	64·76
South Indian :		
Great Southern of India ...	52·26	60·81
Carnatic ..	..	
STATE		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	132·49	78·34
Nulhatee ...		67·22
Khamgaon ...	...	81·15
Oomrawuttee ...	...	134·71
Rajpootana ...	...	80·31
Holkar ...	...	84·19
Wurda Valley ...	...	104·93
Nizam's ...	...	94·07
Average for all lines	55·84	49·19

It will be seen from the above that considerable reduction has been effected in expenditure. The East Indian Railway Company have reduced expenditure nearly 10 per cent, but the Eastern Bengal Railway Company have increased it by about 7 per cent. There has, however, generally been a decrease of expenditure. The net earnings of each Railway were as under:

RAILWAYS. GUARANTEED.	1865. £	1874. £
East Indian, Main line ...	772,099	2,061,921
,, Jubbulpore line ...	...	134,956
Eastern Bengal ...	58,746	167,721
Oudh and Rohilkund ...	...	71,320
Sindh ...	3,507	
Punjab ..	6,009	266,443
Delhi ...	...	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	314,626	754,728
Bombay, Baroda, and Central India	41,111	257,143
Madras ..	171,640	191,305
South Indian:		
Great Southern of India ...	14,711	34,841
Carnatic ..	...	...
		3,940,378
STATE.		
Calcutta and South-Eastern ...	-2,799	1,975
Nulhattee ...	...	2,558
Khamgaon ...	..	465
Oomrawutee ...	...	—967
Rajpootana ..	...	11,161
Holkar ...	...	1,631
Wurda Valley ...	..	—95
Nizams ...	...	623
		19,475
Total	1,379,650	3,957,729

The guaranteed interest amounts to £4,600,000 in round numbers, but in 1874 the net earnings of Guaranteed Railways yielded £3,940,378, leaving a deficit of £659,622, which our Government had to make up. As regards

the State Railways, the earnings yielded a little more than a quarter per cent. The capital sunk in these Railways was say 6½ crores, and the interest upon that amount at 4 per cent. was 26 lakhs, while the earnings came to about 2 lakhs, leaving a deficit of 24 lakhs. The aggregate loss to Government for interest on Railway capital is thus about 90 lakhs per annum exclusive of loss by exchange. This is the tax which the general tax-payers pay for the maintenance of the Railways. Considering the immense advantages, which the Railways have conferred upon India, the loss we must confess is not very great, and it will we believe become less as the development of the resources of the country will proceed. But the success of the State Railways as reproductive works is yet problematical.

THE CHRONICLES OF TABARY.

OF THE many valuable historical works extant in the Arabic language the Chronicles of Tabary are by far the most important. For the history of Islam during the first two centuries of the Hijera they are our only guides, and for the reigns of Omayades and the Abbasides, they are at once the fullest and the most trustworthy. Like most Muhammadan historians, the author begins with the beginning of Creation, and makes his work a history of the world. He lived at Bagdad, and died at the advanced age of eighty-seven years, devoting the whole of his long life to the elaboration of a work which is alike the glory of Arabic literature, and a noble monument of his learning and historical acumen. His work closes with his own times, A. D. 915. (H. 302). The style adopted is that of the *Hadith*, each important fact being related by an eye-witness or contemporary, and his account brought down through a series of narrators to the author. Whenever more than one version of an event have been met with, the author has given in full the different versions, so as to place before his readers all the materials available for a right understanding of the subject. He has, besides, so indicated and verified his sources that no doubt is left in the mind of many of the facts being thoroughly authentic, having all the value of contemporary history. In a private letter to a friend in Calcutta, Dr. Sprenger, the highest authority on Islamite literature, says: "on me they make the impression of extracts from the newspapers of the day. By its very form the *Tarikh Tabary* is valuable for the educated Moslems, for the Hadith with connected *isnad* is a peculiarity of theirs, of which they may justly be proud, and it is one of the *asul* of the creed; and, though kafirs as we both are, we must confess that the history of Islam during the first two centuries for which Tabary is the only reliable source (most other works are mere extracts from it) is one of the most interesting periods in the development of our race, and ought to attract particularly the attention of every sensible Moslem. He will become acquainted by it with the victories of his ancestors, and for which *fazlaham Allah ali ul alamin*, and also with their faults and mistakes, which, after a short period of splendour, brought ruin and disgrace on the Khalifat." Of course, the earlier chapters, referring to creation and ancient history, are necessarily apocryphal, and few would care to look at them for history, though as preserving Arab traditions on the subject, they are not without interest. But for pre-Islamite history of the first three centuries before the Hijera, including that of the Sassanides, the work of Tabary is a rich mine of information. For the history of Muhammed and his four "righteous" Khalifas, the renowned *char yar* whose names on the gold mohurs of Akbar have given to those coins so factitious a value even in the estimation of the Hindus of India, and for eight hundred years after them it is of peculiar value. The veracity, accuracy and stupendous learning of Tabary is admitted by all, and both Moslem and Christian writers concur in describing him as "the father of Muhammadan Universal History."

From the nature of the subject and the manner in which the facts were related, the work extended to an enormous size, and during the latter part of his life the author felt that for general use an abridgment was needed, and to this he devoted the last nine years of his literary career. In India neither the original nor the abridgment is now available, but a Persian translation of the latter, from which Khondamir borrowed his material has rendered it familiar with scholars. Recent researches have brought to light the existence of the original work in fragments in different European Libraries, and Messrs. Brill of Leiden have offered to undertake the collection and publication of them in a complete form. It has been estimated that the entire work will fill twenty volumes of about 640 pages each, and for the sake of convenience and promptitude of publication it is proposed to bring it out in three parallel series; the first, comprising the pre-Islamite history, and the life of Muhammad and of the four righteous Khalifs; the second, the history of the Omayades; and the third, that of the Abbasides. The first part will be edited by Dr. Barth of Berlin, Professor Noldeke of Strassburg, and Professor Loth of Leipzig. The second will be carried through the press by Professor Thorbecke of Heidelburg and Dr. Muller of Vienna; and the third has been made over to Dr. Grunert of Leipzig and Professor de Goeje of the Leiden University. The work, when completed, will be a glorious memento of the zeal, assiduity and devotion to learning of the distinguished savans who have taken it in hand. The credit of setting the scheme on foot is due to the late Professor Stahelin of Basel, who has bequeathed a sum of 5,000 Francs towards its support. The work, however, is so large that the bequest will go but a small way to carry it out, unless it be supplemented by others. It is therefore to be hoped that the Muhammadan scholars and raises of India will come forward, and mark their appreciation of the undertaking by contributing to the fund now being raised in Europe for the purpose, and by subscribing for copies of the work. An Arabic work of so large a size cannot be expected to sell to so large an extent in Europe as to pay the cost of printing; but in India, our Muhammadan fellow-countrymen will not be true to their classic literature if they do not extend their patronage to it.

THE SUNDERBUNS AND THE ROAD CESS.

WE publish in another column a letter in reply to our article on the subject of the proposed Mahismari road which appeared in our issue of the 1st instant. We are quite willing to give a hearing to both sides of the question in these columns, but we are sorry that our correspondent has imported personal feeling in the controversy. The question ought to be discussed on broad general grounds, and if our correspondent could bring his mind to accept that position, perhaps it would not be too much for us to expect that he would acquiesce in the general utility of the proposed Mahismari road. We have no intention to go again into the *pros* and *cons* urged by the advocates and opponents of the projected road, but as our correspondent's letter is chiefly based upon them we will say a few words in reply. It was stated in the petition of the opponents of the road to the Presidency Commissioner that the road would not benefit those for whom it was designed, inasmuch as it would pass through paddy fields avoiding populous villages. The advocates of the road in a counter-petition thus replied:

"Instead of avoiding the principal villages and *Hauts*, the line of the proposed road is so fixed as to run in close proximity to a great number of populous villages, and the two important Hauts viz., Gorer and Bantra Hauts which lie within its range, and finally to join the Culpee metalled road at Baraset on which stand the two principal rice Hauts of the District viz, the Mogra and Bostee Hauts. So that the proposed road will not only open out a large part of the Soonderbuns to a large number of the populous villages, but to the two important rice markets of the district.

It is not difficult to see that the petition protesting against the proposed road has been submitted more in the interest of certain zemindars in that part of the country, than of the petitioners themselves. At present the said zemindars let out the lands of their estates at the rate of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3-8 per biggah, while the much more fertile lands of the Soonderbun grants lying within 4 to 10 miles of their estates, are easily available to those ryots at the rate of Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4 per biggah) but owing to the scarcity of fresh water for drink and other necessaries of life, these ryots cannot settle upon these grants and cultivate the lands. But if a Road were constructed like the one proposed by the District Road Cess Committee, they could easily cultivate those lands as Pykust ryots, just as many do now, notwithstanding the difficulties in the present means of inter-communication, and bring into cultivation about a lac of biggas of most fertile lands now lying waste for want of men to cultivate them. But what care the zemindars, whether the ryot class is benefitted and an addition made to the food supply of the district to the value of more than six lacs of rupees? They clearly perceive that these results, however desirable, are only attainable by a heavy loss to themselves, as they know well enough that as soon as the Soonderbun is made accessible to their ryots by means of a road, they will relinquish the land now held by them at Rs. 2 to Rs. 3-8 per biggah, and takes much better lands in the Soonderbuns at Re. 1 to Rs 1-4 a biggah. It is not to be wondered at therefore that these zemindars will try all manner of means to prevent the construction of the road in question."

We give the extract as it appeared in our issue of the 1st instant. Our correspondent seems to make much of the misprint of "Busti" for "Usti," as if the fate of the road hung on a freak of the printer's devil. Then he denies that either Mugra or Usti is situated on the Culpi road, the first being 5 miles, and the second 13 miles from the Culpi road. But here the translator was at fault. The two hauts are not on the Culpi road properly speaking, but on the road branching off from it, parallel to which will run the projected road. By joining the Culpi road at Baraset Bazar the proposed road will in effect open out the Sunderbuns to Mugra and Usti hats, for it is at this point where it will terminate, the junction connecting the branch road from the Culpi road with the Mahismari road. As regards the number of Sunderbun grants, which will directly or indirectly benefit by the road, our correspondent says that the 13 annas proprietors of lots Nos. 34,35,41 and 44, the well known Dutt zemindars of Mazilpore, have entered their unqualified protest against the road. It might be worth enquiry as to why the proprietors of the remaining three annas have kept himself back from joining in the protest, and whether our correspondent is quite sure that the 13 annas shareholders of Lot No. 41 have also joined. But these are small matters. Our correspondent without denying the benefits which would result from the proposed road says that the "lion's share" would fall to the lot of the proprietor of grants No. 39 and 40. He further says that "Lot No. 41 may receive only a partial benefit from the proposed road inasmuch as the Baratola khal intervenes to prevent an easy access to the same." The idea that a khal some 30 or 40 feet wide, which is quite dry for 9 months in the year, would neutralize the benefit which Lot No. 41 would otherwise receive from the proposed road is simply amusing. As for the local knowledge on which our correspondent seems to rely so much, may we ask whether the Baratola khal is not dammed at its mouth and just at the point where the proposed road will terminate, and if such be the case whether the intervention of the khal can in the least degree prevent Lot No. 41 from enjoying the full benefit of the road. We can of our own knowledge say that the proprietors of Lot No. 42 containing upwards of thirty thousand biggas of land are most anxious for the construction of the proposed road. We do not wonder that some of the proprietors of Lots No. 34, and 35 object to the proposed road since their grants bordering as they do upon permanently settled estates have long since been reclaimed. Any collateral advantage which these proprietors might derive from the road might be more than counterbalanced by the loss which they are likely to sustain by its construction. For they cannot shut their eyes to the contingency that as soon as an extensive tract of the Sunderbuns is opened out their ryots will probably take lands at Re. 1 to Re. 1-4 a bigga and cultivate them as Pykust royts, relinquishing much inferior lands, for which they have now to pay as high as Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8, a biga, simply because the Sunderbun lands are not accessible to them. We cannot help remarking that our correspondent by his own admission furnishes the best argument in favor of the road. He says that "Lot No. 36 is Government khas and what is technically called a *Kala Jungle*." The question which our correspondent's statement would naturally suggest is this—that situated as the Lot is within a short distance of the most populous villages of the permanently settled estates would it have remained a *Kala Jungle*, that is dark as the primeval forest, and undisposed of by Government, if it had been accessible to the ryots of those villages. The same may be said of Lots 37 and 28 which our correspondent says belong to Babus Sreenath Dutt and Surendranath Dutt, and which are still almost in a state of *Kala Jungle*.

So much for the controversy, which we regret has assumed a rather personal charac-

ter. We look upon the question from a different stand-point of view. What is the object of the District Road Cess? The construction of such internal communications as would benefit the whole district by offering facilities of transport and opening new and easily accessible markets to the laborer and the producer. Now the reclamation of the Sunderbuns is a momentous question, which vitally affects the district. It has engaged the attention of Government from 1774. So long back as 1783, Mr. Henckell, who made the first Sunderbuns settlement, wrote as follows on the subject :-

"The first object that struck me on my arrival at Jessore and taking charge of the appointment of Magistrate was the adopting of measure for the future security of the province and the peace of the inhabitants in a country so infested with dacoits. A plan has suggested itself to me which I am confident, if adopted, would not only eradicate these nests of maranders, but in the course of a few years bring a great addition of revenue to Government: I mean the peopling of that large tract of waste lands called the Soonderbuns, appertaining to Jessore, situated between the Roymungul and Hooringhatta rivers.

"That it is practicable to populate these wild and extensive forests, and not a mere speculative idea, we have only to recur to the times of the Moghul Government, and we shall find that prior to the invasion of the Mugs in the Bengal year 1123 (1721-22 A.D.) these lands were in the finest state of cultivation. and the villages in general well populated. The number of mosques and other places of worship still remaining fully demonstrate its former splendour and magnificence. Nature also has been particularly lavish and bountiful of her favours to this part of Bengal: the number of fine rivers with which it abounds renders it so convenient for transportation of all kinds of merchandise, and its vicinity to Calcutta, the seat of Government, affords the merchant and manufacturer a sure prospect of receiving the reward of their labours by the speedy sale of their merchandise, the greatest encouragement to revenue. The quantity of wood and timber proper for constructing boats, the transportation of fire-wood to Calcutta, the furnishing of cattle of all kinds for the use of shipping, the quantity of wax that is everywhere found in the woods, and the preparation of shell-lime, will amply reward the ryot for the trouble and expense of clearing away the ground. All that he requires is an assurance of being protected by Government in the quiet possession of the little spot that he has cleared away by the sweat of his brow.

"The Soonderbuns once cultivated, the dacoits will find no place of safety fly to, or elude the vigilance of the Magistrate. Imprint the minds of the ryots with confidence in Government, and their attachment will be secured by the strongest tie of nature—self-interest, and consequently, instead of affording protection to the dacoits by sharing with them in the spoil, will cheerfully exert themselves in their apprehension, and in time oblige these disturbers of the public peace to become useful members of society. Another great advantage arising from the adoption of the plan is the assistance it will afford to the salt manufacturer."

The Government sanctioned the scheme, but it was not attended with the desired success. From time to time different rules were passed by Government until in 1853 Lord Dalhousie's celebrated Resolution on the reclamation of the Sunderbuns came into operation. Under the liberal provisions of this Resolution the reclamation has been rapidly proceeding. The following statement shews the progress of cultivation in the Sunderbuns south of Lieutenant Hodge's boundary line, from the year 1830 to the year 1875 A.D.

	Sub-Divisions.	Area cleared and cultivated. Acres.	Square miles.	Area under forest and low jungle. Acres	Square miles.	Total, Acres.	Square miles.
24-Pergunnahs District.	Diamond Harbour ...	31,239·98	48·89	444,639·62	694·75	475,929·60	743·64
	Barripore ...	93,441·36	144·44	282,982·64	442·16	375,424·00	586·60
	Busseerhat ..	78,363·69	122·44	756,036·31	1,181·31	834,400·00	1,303·75
	Satkhira ...	19,431·19	30·38	344,859·61	538·84	364,300·80	569·22
	Total ..	221,536·22	346·15	1,828,518·18	2,857·06	2,050,054·40	3,203·21
Jessore.	Khoolna ...	50,452·93	78·83	495,979·07	774·97	546,432·00	853·80
	Bagirhat ...	57,085·05	89·20	481,822·15	757·53	541,907·20	846·73
	Total ..	107,537·98	168·03	980,801·22	1,532·50	1,088,339·20	1,700·53
Backergunge.	Perozepore ...	35,584·00	55·60	49,600·00	7,750	85,184·00	133·10
	Patoakhally ..	144,233·45	225·36	164,592·15	257,18	308,825·60	482·54
	Total ...	179,817·45	280·96	214,192·15	334·68	394,009·60	615·64
	Grand Total ...	508,891·65	795·14	3,023,511·55	4,724·24	3,532,403·20	5,519·38
Area of rivers and creeks south of Lieutenant Hodge's boundary line in 24-Pergunnahs Soonderbuns ...						631,954·00	987·00
Area of rivers and creeks south of Lieutenant Hodge's boundary line in Jessore Soonderbuns ...						304,274·00	475·00
Area of rivers and creeks south of Lieutenant Hodge's boundary line in Backergung Soonderbuns ...						198,949·00	311·00
	Grand Total....					4,667,580·20	7,292·38

The figures in the above statement give the following as the percentage of cultivation in each district and sub-division :

District	Sub-division.		Percentage of cultivation.
24-Pergunnahs.	Diamond Harbour	...	6·574
	Barripore	...	24·623
	Busseerhat	...	9·391
	Satchira	...	5·337
	The entire district	...	10·806
Jessore ...	Khoolna	...	9·233
	Bagirhat	...	10·5·4
	The entire district	...	9·881
Backergunge ..	Perozepore	..	41·773
	Patoakhally	...	46·702
	The entire district	...	45·637
The entire Soonderbuns		—	14·406

The progress of reclamation has been unequal, and the cause of this inequality is apparent. As the writer on the *Soonderbuns* in the last *Statistical Reporter* says: "The rivers in the 24-Pergunnahs Soonderbuns are nearly all salt; in the Jessore Soonderbuns they are partly sweet, but the lands are low and swampy, and produce only the coarse kind of rice; whereas the lands in Backergunge are high, producing excellent rice, and most of the rivers contain sweet water. It will thus be seen that owing to natural causes almost half the Backergunge Soonderbuns have been reclaimed from jungle, whilst under lower rates of assessment and other advantages about a tenth only of the forest in the 24-Pergunnahs and Jessore districts have been cleared and cultivated."

Now, it is because the proposed Mahismari road will greatly compensate the natural disadvantages and make a large tract of the Sunderbuns in the south of 24-Pergunnahs, about a lac of biggas, accessible to the ryots, who may cultivate the land as *pykusts* on cheap terms, and on a rough computation annually add about 6 lakhs worth of paddy to the food supply of the district, we support the project of the Road Cess Committee. It is immaterial whether particular proprietors want the road or not—we ought to look to the general good, and no reasonable man can deny that as the population of the district is increasing and the food supply is remaining stationary, the opening out of the Sunderbuns would be an immense public good, and the cost would be small indeed, if the object could be attained by laying out Rs. 20,000 for a road as proposed by the Road Cess Committee. We hope no personal considerations will be allowed to interfere with this work of such general usefulness and signal benefit.

THE FINANCIAL POLICY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE Bengal Chamber of Commerce has called into question the financial or financing policy of the Secretary of State. The condition of the money market, says the Chamber, is such as to occasion the gravest apprehensions, and the recent rapid advances in the rates charged by local banks, for ordinary business accommodation, indicate not only extreme stringency and pressure, but also a comparatively insufficient supply of means to satisfy the current demands of the general trade of the country. The Chamber is of opinion that "that condition is mainly attributable to the suspension of the usual bi-monthly drawings on the Indian treasuries; and the uncertainty of the financial measures that may be adopted by the Secretary of State, intensifies the mischievous effects which have already resulted from the depreciated value of silver." The Chamber continues: "In the Budget Statement the Financial Member estimated that the drafts on India would realize only 1-8½, and that even a lower rate might have to be accepted, thereby leading the public to believe that, at such figures, the Secretary of State would sell his Bills. Acting on such belief the Exchange Banks took no measures for the purchase of silver or other remittances, though their wants were so pressing; instead, however, of adopting the Budget rate, the Setretary of State arbitrarily adheres to a higher exchange, causing thereby greater stringency than ever." It thus concludes: "The insufficiency of money is creating severe distress, the extent and duration of which may not be measured, unless relief be promptly afforded by the resumption of Council Bills, or by the Government of India releasing its tresury balances to an extent commensurate with the absolute requirements of commerce, which would have been otherwise satisfied had the ordinary means of supplying them not been withheld." The Government of India has returned the following reply :

"Since your letter was written information has been received by telegraph of the allotment of Rs, 50,00,000 on the Calcutta and Bombay treasuries; the greater part of this amount has already been paid under advice by telegraph, and this circumstance cannot fail to have sensibly affected the position for the better.

With reference to the suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce that the Government should "release its treasury balances," I am desired to point out that the Government has steadily maintained a large balance with the Bank of Bengal.

The last statement of the affairs of the Bank, published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, is for the week ending the 13th April on which date the treasury balances held by the Bank of Bengal amounted to Rs. 3,60,69,878-7.

That this large amount was actively employed by the bank, and thus enabled the bank to maintain a lower scale of charges than would otherwise have been necessary, may be inferred from the total amount of cash balance on the same date which was Rs. 2,61,38,329-4-6.

A large balance has also been maintained by the Government of India at Bombay, where the position is not materially different from that observable in Calcutta, and at both places bullion tendered for coinage has been paid for out of the treasury balances, in anticipation of the time required for coining it.

I am authorised to acquaint you that, since the 13th April, a cash payment of Rs. 10,00,000 has been made to the Government Account with the Bank of Bengal, from Revenue treasuries in Bengal, and that directions have been given for a further similar payment of Rs. 30,00,000.

We do not quite see that the merchants have a rightful claim to the cash balances of Government at the expense of the general tax-payer, though we admit that the financial operations of Government ought to be so regulated as not to inflict unnecessary loss upon the mercantile community. But surely the Secretary of State has a right to raise money or to sell his bills at his own convenience, which means the convenience of the public. It cannot be just to the general body of tax-payers to insist upon the Secretary of State playing himself into the hands of the bankers, whose interest it is to send up the exchange rate as high as possible. The drain upon the Indian treasury is enormous, and the Secretary of State is bound to look to the interests of the general tax-payer rather than to those of bankers and merchants. We have no objection to the application of the cash balances to the accommodation of commerce, so long as this can be done consistently with the safety of the imperial treasury, but if the Government take to banking business it may find itself in a position, from which it will be difficult for it to extricate itself hereafter. Private banks ought to be able to meet the ordinary needs of commerce.

THE VIDYSAGARA OF BOMBAY.

PUNDIT VISHNU PARASHURAM SHASTRI, whose death it was our melancholy duty to record last week, was the Pundit Issur Chunder Vidyasagara of Bombay. We have read with great interest an account of his career in the columns of the *Indu-Prokash*. Pundit Vishnu Shastri was born in 1827-28 and was thus in his 49th year at the time of his death. He came of a family which for three generations, says our contemporary, has been renowned for great learning and ancient purity of manners. His grand-father Narayan Pandit was a great grammarian, his father Parashuram Shastri was also a great grammarian, and was besides acknowledged to be an authority in Dhurma Shastra and Mimansa. Pundit Vishnu Shastri was a pupil of the great Raghavandracharya. After completing his Sanscrit studies he learnt English at the Bombay Patshalla, and was thought so well of that he was appointed to be Translation Exhibitioner under Major Candy in 1855. In this capacity it was his duty to translate for the schools standard English books into Marathi. He translated portions of Murray's History of British India, contributed to the Departmental Series translations of portions of Todd's history of Rajastan, and composed some poetical lessons in the Series. He also compiled a small Marathi and English school dictionary. Between 1860 and 1861 Vishnu Shastri was appointed to act as Head-master of the English School at Dharwar, and while he was at that place he mastered

Canarese. After acting for nearly two years in that capacity he returned to Poona to his old Exhibitioner's work, and continued to act in that capacity down to 1864, in which year he was appointed to act as Head-master of an English School which was then newly opened at Malegaum. After serving there for sometime he was attacked by severe illness, which obliged him to resign his post. He never entered Government service again and in the year 1864, he joined the establishment of the *Indu-Prakash* as its Marathi Editor, and subsequently became its proprietor. These are the main incidents of his career. But his memory will be cherished by posterity as a religious and social reformer.

Mr. Vishnu Shastri's Maharathi writings not only greatly contributed to the success of the *Indu-Prokash* but raised the tone of the Native Press, and diffused a taste among the native community for a higher order of vernacular literature. He was a man of earnest religious feeling, and acquired wide renown as a preacher. But his labors as a social reformer were most important. The *Indu-Prokash* gives a graphic sketch of this part of his career, which we reproduce with pleasure :

" It is his connection with the remarriage question that will immortalize his name in the history of religious reform as the great Martin Luther of this side of India. The remarriage agitation had commenced in Bengal as early as 1856 when the Act was passed removing the disability of married widows. Pandit Ishvarachandra Vidyasagar of Calcutta had published his treatise on the subject, in which he sought to establish by an appeal to the authority of Parasher Smriti that the remarriage of widows in high castes was declared legal by the Hindu law. Vishnu Shastri translated Vidyasagar's book into Marathi in January 1865, and followed up his studies through all the Smriti texts till he was in a position to take more advanced views upon the point than had occurred to Pandit Ishvarachandra. He soon gathered about him a large number of friends who were persuaded to sympathize with him in his advocacy of the cause of helpless widows. The command of the *Indu Prokash*, of which he was then Editor, greatly assisted him in his propagandist mission. In November 1865 an independent Native gentleman of Poona made bold to marry a widow, and Pandit Vishnu Shastri acted as the father of the bride on the occasion. These stray efforts, however, wanted the strength of combination, and it was with a view to remove this defect, and to secure the co-operation of all sympathizers with the movement that the Widow Remarriage Association was formed in December 1865 under the presidency of the then Honourable Vinchurkar; and His Highness Appa Saheb of Jamkhandi ranged himself on the same side and lent the strength of his support to the movement. Vishnu Shastri became the Secretary of the Association, and continued to act in that capacity for about seven or eight years.

The Benares Shastris had by this time issued several publications in Sanskrit against the legality of widow remarriages. And in 1868 Vishnu Shastri published a Sanskrit tract successfully refuting the arguments advanced by the Benares Shastris and convinced all impartial thinkers of the justice of his cause. This controversy resulted in the great and useful discoveries that there were Vedic texts in favour of widow remarriages and that there were several Pauranic instances which confirmed the view that the practice of widow marriages was not obsolete in those days. Vishnu Shastri's constant teaching had the effect of converting large multitudes of men, including all the rising generation, over to his views. Hundreds of families declared themselves ready to show their practical sympathy with the cause by continuing to support and hold communion with any reformer who acted up to his convictions in this matter. At last in June 1869 such a consummation was brought about, and the first public remarriage in the highest caste was celebrated with great ceremony and pomp amidst universal rejoicings.

About a few months after the marriage took place, Vithalpant Anna of Karhad, a man of great powers and gifted intellect, had come to Poona and Bombay to create a diversion in favour of the orthodox views. Vithalpant however, though his researches in Smriti lore were great for his education and antecedents, was not a Sanskrit Pandit, and could not cope with Vishnu Shastri on equal terms, and moreover would not consent to come to a discussion on reasonable conditions.

Party spirit ran very high and many things were done and said on both sides which now that the times are cooler, all will alike regret. The orthodox party in Bombay were the first to drag seven of the leading reformers on a false criminal charge before the Police Court. The charge was not sustained and the person who had the audacity to perjure himself received recompense for his pains in the further development of this agitation. Those who had failed in the Police prosecution had recourse next to the more dangerous weapon of excommunication. Seven of the leading reformers, Vishnu Shastri being included among them, were in defiance of all forms of procedure and common honesty, placed under the ban of excommunication in Bombay and the orthodox communities of other places were encouraged by the example to treat with the same harshness all the more forward sympathizers with the movement in the Mofussil. These violent proceedings roused up the latent energies of all right-minded people who condemned in numerously signed protests this violence as unjust and impolitic, contending that no condemnation should be pronounced till after a great council had determined the points at issue after hearing the arguments on both sides.

A great Council of Shastris was summoned by Shankaracharya Poona in March 1870 to discuss the question of the validity of the opinions promulgated by Pandit Vishnu Shastri. Never since the time of the great Budhistic Councils had such an array of learning been secured to discuss a great religious question; Pandits from Gwalior, Indoor, Benares, Nagpoor, Bombay, Sattara Wai, Ratnagiri Kolhapoor, and a host of other places obeyed the call of Shankaracharyaa The Pant Pratinidhi, Pant Sachiva and the Patvardhan Chiefs attended in accordance with the same requisitio. It was a solemn spectacle to see all the learning, and piety, and power and riches and numbers ranged on one side to put down with a firm hand the small minority of lay men who had under the leadership of Vishnu Shastri accepted the challenge sent by Shankaracharya, and had come to Poona to attend the Council for the great discussion. The moral effect of this determined attitude on the part of Vishnu Shastri and his band of friends was beyond example.

An equal number of arbitrators were chosen on both sides to whom the final power of determining the issues raised in the discussion was confided, and further the whole discussion was reduced to writings on both sides.

In consequence of the precautions taken, the discussion was brought to a peaceable close after lasting for nine days. The arbitrators on the orthodox side voted in favour of their foregone conclusion. Three of the arbitrators on the reform side, including among their number one of the most highly cultivated and intellectual leader of thought on this side of India, gave their decision in favour of the reform views. The remaining two were cowed down by fear of excommunication and tempted by false promises to vote against their judgment. One of these arbitrators Vyankat Shastri Mate, who was a fellow student of Vishnu Shastri's father had himself suggested a most ingenious line of argument which turned the flank of the discussion against the orthodox side, and yet this old and highly respected Shastri voted against his own conscience. The other Shastri was in the pay of His Highness, Appa Saheb of Jamkhindi, and had been chosen as arbitrator at the suggestion of the Chief who had received repeated assurances from his Shastri that he was convinced of the truth of the position taken up by the reformers. The fear of excommunication which forced these two to vote directly against their conscience, had a sensible effect in constraining and compromising to a certain extent the independence of those who did not actually sell their vote. Our admiration for the independence of Vishnu Shastri is heightened by this contrast of his conduct with that his brother Shastris who did not run one-tenth the risk that he faced so boldly. The decision of the Council was unfavourable to the retrom side, but Vishnu Shastri and his friends had gained their object The whole discussion was printed, and circulated widely all over the Presidency, and Vishnu Shastri made an appeal to the public and that appeal was listened to by crowds of enthusiastic followers all over the Presidency. The Council confirmed the sentence of excommunication which had been passed upon the reform leaders in the early stage of the agitation. These untoward events did not at the time cool down the enthusiasm of Vishnu Shastri and his friends, who answered the fulminations of the Council by celebrating another marriage before the Council had separated and dispersed to their homes. A third marriage was celebrated a short while after, and the parties belonged to some of the most influential families in Bombay. Since then every year two or three marriages have been celebrated under Vishnu Shastri's auspices. Some of these marriages has been brought about without the intervention of third parties with the voluntary choice of the persons who contracted this matrimonial tie. Another noteworthy circumstance in this connection is the fact that the movement has not been confined to one section of the people. The Gujarathis, as well as the Marathas, Brahmins of all classes (Konkanasta, Deshasta, Nagar, Ondichya) and Parbhus and Banias, Bhatias in fact all the more intelligent castes have been moved, and bold spirits have been found who have in a noble cause sacrificed and suffered much for the sake of reforming the condition of helpless widows.

It pleased Providence to try Vishnu Shastri's faith in the justice of his cause in a more tender way. In February 1872 his wife died, and all his enemies regarded it as a great occasion of triumph.

Isharachandra Vidyasagar had given this test of his sincerity by marrying his own son to a widowed girl. Weak minded men always require this sort of assurance on the part of their leaders, and Vishnu Shastri was prepared to sacrifice his personal independence which at his time of life and to a man of his tastes, had special attractions. The marriage took place in December 1874 and it accelerated to a remarkable extent the popular acceptance of the movement with which he was so intimately identified by this last and supreme sacrifice."

Such was the man, who so earnestly carried out the great work commenced by the illustrious Pandit Eswar Chunder Vidyasagara in Bengal. We are glad to learn that a movement has been set on foot at Poona, which we hope will be followed up in other cities of Bombay, to perpetuate his memory.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE COMMOTION at Chittagong, which we reported last week, has not yet subsided. Our local correspondent writes to us as follows under date the 9th instant :

" Mr. Kirkwood is pushing on his prosecution of Municipal Commissioner Baboo Lall Chand Chowdry; although he has been cited as his witness by the defendant, still he is trying the case with the Commissioner's sanction. Perhaps you may not have heard before of the same man being a prosecutor, a judge, and also a witness in the same case; here is however a glorious instance. Meanwhile a Municipal Meeting was convened yesterday for repealing the bye-law about conservancy, six members (all Sahibs and Government officials) voted against the law being repealed. Mr Fuller a tea-planter and 6 native Members voted for repealing it. Thus you see the officials were defeated, but it is rumoured that the Commissioner, who also voted against repealing the bye-law, proposes to recommend to Government to keep the law in force, on what ground or under what rule he alone knows"

Here is another illustration of the advantage of associating independent Europeans in the Municipal Commission. It is evident that the solitary European member of the Chittagong Municipality has proved a tower of strength to the Native members.

The same correspondent says that the Lieutenant-Governor has returned the papers in Mr. Webster's case and called upon the Commissioner to take the explanation of Mr. Rattray, the District Superintendent of Police, before condemning him.

THE FOLLOWING correspondence anent the Shampookur Police case, which we noticed in previous issues, has been placed at our disposal:

To

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

SIR,—I beg to bring to your notice that on Saturday last, the 1st April, two policemen at about 10 A. M., Serjeant Hossain and constable No. 54, belonging to the Shampookur Section, entered my house No. 12 Shampookur Street, without any intimation to me. I found them speaking with a neighbour of mine——who was in the habit of bathing at a tap in my house, and who was bathing there on that day as usual. I did not at first know that they were Policemen, as they had no uniform on; I saw them from upstairs engaged in conversation with him for about twenty minutes, and on coming down questioned them who they were, they said that they had some business with the Baboo, meaning——and asked me whether I was the proprietor of the house, to which I replied in the affirmative. While the conversation was going on they attempted to arrest ——who fled into the zennana, and they pursued him into it. On seeing the strangers the ladies in the zennana screamed aloud, I immediately went in and saw the Serjeant below, crying *pukrao*, and the constable in a room upstairs.

I did not even then know that they were Policemen, I called them out and told them that if they wanted the man, I would remove the ladies and then they might apprehend him; the Serjeant would not at first listen to me, I then orderd my men to look for the Police, then they came out and for the first time said that they were Policemen, the constable shewed me his badge, which he had kept concealed, and added that they had come to arrest——on a charge of theft. I said why did they not apprehend him, whilst he was bathing, as they had been talking with him for about 20 minutes, and why did they not ask his (mine) assistance when the man had fled into the Zennana instead of themselves rushing into it. I told them to wait, saying that I would see the man handed over to them which I did, and they then departed.

My complaint is 1stly, that they had entered my house without any previous intimation; 2ndly, that they had no Police uniform on, and did not told me beforehand that they were Policemen, and had come to execute a public duty. 3rdly; that they had conversed with——for about 20 minutes in the outer Courtyard and did not then apprehend him; 4thly, that they had trespassed into the zennana in pursuit of the man without even telling me what they were about, and 5thly that they offered me a grievous wrong and insult by this act.

Believing that this matter may be best sifted by a departmental enquiry, and that if you are satisfied with the truth of my statements, you will give me needful redress I have ventured to lay my complaint before you. I need hardly add that if a local enquiry be deemed necessary to test the truth of my statements, I solicit that you will be so good as to conduct the enquiry yourself on the spot.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant.
ANANDA KISSEN MULLICK.

Calcutta 12 *Shampookur Street 3rd April 1876.*

No. 894.

To

BABOO ANUNDA KISSEN MULLICK
12 *Shampooker Street Calcutta*

SIR—With reference to your letter of yesterday, I beg to inform you that the complaint against Sergeant Mozahar Hossain and a constable of the Shampooker Section has been duly considered, and the Commissioner of Police regrets much that the Police should on the spur of the moment have pursued the accused into your house and thereby unnecessarily intruded on your privacy.

The Police should have kept watch at the door and requested you to deliver the man; however from the enquiries it is clear that there was no deliberate intention on the part of the Police to cause annoyance to the inmates of the house.

The hasty and inconsiderate action of the Police has been duly noticed by the Commissioner.

Yours Faithfully.
11 *May* 1876. J. G. CHARLES.
Offg. Dy. Commissioner of Police.

The reply we are informed was not received without a reminder. The expression of regret or apology by the Commissioner of Police we submit, is not sufficient or satisfactory. It would be absurd to hold the Commissioner personally responsible for the peccadillos of stray members of a force of about two thousand men, but when any men are convicted of derilection of duty or abuse of power, surely he as the head of the Police ought to visit them with condign or exemplary punishment. Here was a case in which he might have vindicated his position, but we are sorry to observe that he has simply thrown away the opportunity. The Commissioner of Police admits all the facts alleged by the complainant, but seeks to palliate the offence by stating that "there was no deliberate intention on the part of the Police to cause annoyance to the inmates of the house." A man gives a blow to another and pleads in defence that he had no "deliberate intention to cause annoyance." This is exactly the reasoning upon which the Police Commissioner has decided this case. Why did the Police go without their uniform on, why did they not apprehend the man though they had talked with him for 20 minutes, why did they not ask the owner of the house to

deliver him up when he ran away, and why did they run into the zenana without saying a word to the owner, are questions which ought to have been duly sifted by the Commissioner, and the results of his enquiry ought to have been made public. The Deputy Commissioner says that the "hasty and inconsiderate action of the Police has been duly noticed by the Commissioner"—but he does not condescend to state whether the men have been punished, and if so to what extent. By the bye we hear that there was a sharp correspondence between the Police Commissioner and the Government on the subject. Will the Government publish this correspondence?

WE HAD barely time last week to notice the resolution of the Directors of the Hindu Annuity Fund to make the Government its trustees. We should however mention that the last annual report shews that the Fund is in a fairly prosperous condition. Its progress has been steady as the following figures shew:

	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Number of Subscribers	46	127	191	199
Total amount of Subscriptions received per mensem	301-2-6	577-1-3	848-0-0	873-6-9

During the last two years the progress, however, was not commensurate with that of the previous two years. But that the Fund is in a sound state will appear from the following statement of its receipts and disbursements:

End of Year	Total Receipts.	Expenses of Management.	Total amount of Government Security.	Rates percentage of expenses of Management over Receipts.	Remarks.
1872	1754 14 6	1170 10 9		66·7	(a) includes
1873. (a)	13339 13 9	1488 15 6	11210	11·1	Donation of
1874. (b)	10328 11 6	967 7 6	8800	9·3	Rs. 6,875
1875.	11395 5 11	861 1 0	10090	7·5	(b) includes
Total...	35818 13 8	4488 2 9	30090		Donation of Rs. 1,000

It is due to Puudit Eswar Chunder Vidyasagara to state that the success of the Hindu Annuity Fund was mainly owing to his zealous and disinterested labors. When the scheme was first laid before him, he took it up warmly, and spared no labor to commend it to the confidence and support of the native public. He was chiefly instrumental in obtaining the liberal donations which constitute the large reserve fund of the institution. So long as it was managed under his advice and co-operation it prospered well. It is a great pity that circumstances led him to sever his connection with it. Now that the first difficulties are over and some of the experienced native officers of the Financial Department have taken over the management, we hope it will both deserve and command success.

WE HAVE received a copy of a memorial of the Bengali class doctors to the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for increase of pay. It appears that the substantive pay of this class of officers on entering service is Rs. 20 per month, which is increased to Rs. 25 after the lapse of seven years, after which there is no further increase. The petitioners state that Hospital Assistants used before 1870 to draw the same allowance as themselves; but since that year an increased scale of pay has been granted to them; viz., Rs. 20 for the first seven years of service, Rs. 40 for the next seven years, and Rs. 60 after that. They also point out that they are required to study a large number of subjects, and undergo a stricter preliminary training, and yet such a wide distinction is made between these two classes of native doctors. The petitioners pray for equal treatment at the hands of Government, and we must confess that their prayer is quite reasonable.

A LITERARY periodical of great value, called the *Vedurthayatna*, has been started in Bombay. It will be published in monthly parts of 64 pages and is designed to convey as accurate an idea as is possible in the present state of philological research, of the contents of the Vedas. "With this view," says the projector, "is undertaken a translation into Marathi and English of the four Samhitas of the Rigveda, the Yajurveda, the Samaveda and the Atharva Veda, of which the Rigveda Samhita being the most important has been taken up first. The double translation will be given in juxtaposition with each verse of the original, which is printed in both what is called the Samhito-patha and the Pada-patha, or the text with the words united and the text with the words separated. Besides this double form of the Vedic text, the language of which is well-known to be an archaic and obsolete Sanscrit dialect, is given in a Sanscrit form modernized as far as possible, or in other words in the shape of classical Sanscit, paraphrased in prose order." We wish the project every success.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that the prospects of the projected Industrial School at Behar are looking up. The local journal states that the amount of subscriptions already promised and still expected aggregate Rs. 2,22,580 out of which about Rs. 22,580 have been expended on account of the reception of the Prince of Wales; and the balance of subscriptions available for the school therefore comes to 2 lakhs of rupees. From this Rs. 50,000 have been set apart for the building, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,50,000. Besides this there is a sum of Rs. 33,000, which had been raised in Durbhunga to commemorate the visit of Lord Northbrook to that place, but which on His Lordship having expressed his wish that the money should be devoted to some useful purpose, had been placed at the disposal of the Reception Committee to be appropriated to the purposes of the Industrial School. Thus the total sum now available for investment in Government securities amounts to Rs. 183,000, which at 4 per cent. per annum will yield Rs. 7,320. Over and above this there are the endowments promised by Rajah Hurbulluhh Narain Bahadoor of Sonbursa and Syud Abu Sayid, which will respectively yield, Rs. 1000 and 1200 per annum. The total yearly income therefore comes up to Rs. 9,590. But this amount the Committee consider will not be sufficient and they have accordingly applied to the Lieutenant Governor for a grant-in-aid. We hope this application will be complied with. Behar has as good a claim as Bengal to State support in the diffusion of technical education. The school will be established at Bankipore and not at Pusa as originally contemplated.

THE COMMISSIONER of the Benares Division has recorded a handsome minute regarding certain comments which he had made on a Munsif of Benares. He now withdraws the charge in the following terms:

"Coupling the Magistrate's report of the case (which is strictly correct in facts) with the statement which Mr. Colvin made that the Judge had upset the Munsif's decision, I too hastily arrived at the conclusion that the Judge in so doing had regarded the said decision as an unjust one. I find however, now that I have had an opportunity of reading Mr. Willock's judgment, that he reversed the Munsif's decision simply on legal grounds and without calling into question or impugning in any other way the justice thereof. My remarks therefore were entirely uncalled for, recorded as they were under the erroneous impression that I was merely following the footsteps of the Judge.

The above facts having come to my knowledge, I take the earliest opportunity of making the only reparation in my power to the Munsif, whose character for justice I had thus unjustly assailed, and beg therefore that, as Government called the attention of the High Court of Judicature to my former remarks a copy of this letter may also be transmitted to the Court in, vindication on my part of the Munsif's character, and in expression of my extreme regret that one of the Judges subordinate to that Court should have thus suffered unmeritted obloquy, though only for a time, at my hands.

I have also given the Judge here, Mr. Brodhurst, a copy of this letter, and I have asked him to express to the Munsif my great regret that I should have injured him, as I did both in thought and word."

This report does great honor to Mr. Carmachiel, the Commissioner. It, however, shews how readily high officers of the State misjudge their native subordinates. No opportunity had been offered to the Munsif for an explanation against alleged charges, but a severe censure had been passed upon him. We wish other officers who act so hastily and capriciously were as honorable as Mr. Carmachiel.

WE ARE SORRY to observe that the Lieutenant Governor has rejected the petition of the translators, head clerks and assistant clerks of the District Courts for increase of pay. The *East* publishes the following:

The Lieutenant-Governor observes that the Government of India *refused to allow the increased salaries* proposed by the Revision Committee to the officers attached *to the English departments* of the several offices attached by the scheme of revision, *on the ground that the establishments attached to these offices had not received increase of pay in other provinces*, and that they were specially exempted from the revision ordered in the case of the vernacular establishments attached to the judicial and revenue courts. These orders extended to all officers in the English department of the judges' offices, as well as to those in the offices of the Commissioners, Collectors and Magistrates. The Lieutenant-Governor observes further, from a statement prepared in this office, that on a comparison of the salaries and of the work and responsibility of the officers in the Judges' establishments with those of officers in the other establishments included in the orders of the Government of India cited above, the *petitioners have no valid grounds for claiming any special or exceptional consideration.* The question, then, of revising the salaries of officers in the English departments if taken up at all, must be taken up generally, and *the present is not*, the Lieutenant-Governor considers, *an opportune time for doing so.*

The Lieutenant-Governor therefore regrets that he is unable at present to move in the petitioners' favor.

We regret this decision.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following account of a meeting held in Durbhanga in support of Munshi Pearylal's movement for the curtailment of marriage expenses:

At the instance of the members of the District Committee a General Meeting was convened on the 5th instant by our worthy Magistrate Mr. A. P. MacDonnell who has promised to do all he can to promote this good work. The meeting was a complete success. It was attended by over 1,000 persons. The two uncles of the minor Maharaja of Darbhangah were among those present. These worthy gentlemen deserve our special thanks for the interest and active part they are taking in this matter.

Munshi Pyare Lal delivered a long speech in strong and eloquent terms in which he ably exposed the evils attendant upon the system of celebrating marriages at an extravagant cost for a mere momentary name to the ruin of the future prospects of the boys and girls who are thus married. The able Munshi also pointed out the evil consequences of setting price on boys and girls and of polygamy. He stated that in a meeting held in 1873, at Muzaffurpore, in which about 400 Maithil Brahmins were present, and in which the painful evil consequences of polygamy were pointed out at length, it was unanimously resolved that the practice should be stopped. At the same time, however, it was observed by the gentlemen present that until Maharaj Kumars Baboo Goonesher Singh and Baboo Goopeshar Singh took the lead in the matter it would be difficult to gain the object of this move. Thrice happy therefore is this day when the two able leaders of the Maithil Brahmins have expressed their sincere desire to eradicate the evils in question.

Sir William Muir's speech at Banda, and Mr. C. T. Metcalfe the Patna Commissioner's circular No. 345 of 19th November 1875 to the address of the District Magistrates of the Division were then read. Maharaj Kumar Babu Goopeshar Sing next rose and expressed his entire concurrence with what the learned Munshi had said and admitted that all that was said was quite in accordance with the dictates of the Shastras and religion, and promised that it will be his chief aim henceforth to see that what was so ably proposed by the worthy Munshi is carried out. Mr. MacDonnell next rose and read a speech in the vernacular in which he expressed his entire approval of the arrangements made by Munshi Pyarelal and his sincere desire to promote the object of the committee in every proper way. Mr. MacDonell has since then issued proclamations to the various Police officers to make the rules curtailing the present extravagant expenses in celebrating marriages as widely known in the Mofussil as possible and to try in every consistent way that the rules are observed. Munshi Pyarelal next moved the committee to raise annual subscriptions to meet the expenses of the office establishment, and to help the poor in marrying their daughters in cases in which they cannot be married from want of funds. Rs. 300 were subscribed on the spot and further subscriptions are expected.

In conclusion the meeting expressed their sincere thanks to Mr. C. T. Metcalfe the Commissioner of Patna Division to the District Magistrates of the district, and to Munshi Pyarelal for their valuable and disinterested exertions.

It may not be out of place to mention here that Roy Babu Gobardanlal a wealthy resident of the town, who had been making grand preparations for the celebration of his son's marriage at Chaprah, when informed of the objects and rules of the committee readily conformed to them. The Babu thus acting in accordance with the rules of the committee has reduced within the limits prescribed by the rules the marriage procession, which was once contemplated to comprise some 7000 persons, over 1000 elephants, besides other great preparations. He has, however, in consideration of his position, and expenses already incurred been permitted by the committee to take in his procession 300 persons over and above 500 persons 5 elephants, &c. as prescribed by the rules. He has also been permitted to avail himself of the services of two dancing parties in the marriage procession, and of those of four in entertaining gentlemen who were invited to his house. The celebration of this marriage would have cost the Babu, if it had been conducted on the old system, over a lakh of rupees.

Correspondence.

THE PROPOSED MOHISMARI ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

SIR,—We have read with painful surprize your article of the 1st instant headed "a Tempest in a Teapot." Our surprize arises in a great measure from the fact that the *Hindu Patriot* should so distort facts to serve the interests of a powerful party at the expense of a numerous body of cesspayers—Zemindars, small Landholders, Ryots and all. The whole drift of the article betokens rather the pleadings of

a Special Pleader than that of a calm dispassionate Patriot. You as a denizen of Calcutta have no local knowledge of the subject upon the *tapis* than that extracted from maps and inspirations imbibed through influential and interested sources. Maps in these cases are not generally correct indicators, much less the suggestions of parties who are to all intents and purposes strongly interested in the issue. You have with a degree of complacency referred to the Sundarbun Lots Nos. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 as likely to receive direct benefit by the proposed road, and to Lot No. 48 and other Lots (not specified) as indirectly to be benefited But we refer you to certain facts which are more stubborn things than mere surmises and interested inspirations. We mean that the proprietors to a man and underproprietors generally of almost all the Lots enumerated have entered their protest against the Jobbery of he proposed Mahismari Road. The proprietors of Lots Nos. 34, 35, 41 and 44, the well-known Dutta Zemindars of Muzilpore—upwards of 13 annas shareholders—have entered their unqualified protest against the Road, the proprietor of Lot No. 38 Babu Srinath Dutta has done the same and the co-proprietor of Lot No. 37 Babu Surendra Nath Dutta has followed suit. The Lot No. 36 is Government khas and what is technically called a *Kala Jangal*.

Your next argument wherein you betray so much anxiety to demonstrate that other proprietors besides the proprietor of Mahismari would be directly and indirectly benefitted by the proposed measure is too vague and round-about to require any comment. We will however shew the amount of benefit which would accrue to "other Lots" upon which you seem to build a fabric of defence in favor of the proposed road The Lot No. 40 (Mahismari) will, no doubt, receive the lion's share of the benefit. Next comes Lot No 39 another estate of Babu Digambar Mitra C.S.I., Lot No. 41 may receive only a partial benefit from the proposed Road inasmuch as the Baratala Khal intervenes to prevent an easy access to the same and on this account we believe the proprietors of the Lot by their protest seem to ignore the fact altogether.

The fact seems patent to us that in this controversy two parties have cropped out, one whose individuality is made up of the proprietor of the Mahismari Estate and the other consisting of the inhabitants of the 24-Pergunnahs who have in unmistakable though respectful language expressed their dissent to His Honor. We cannot acknowledge the existence of a party, as the *Hindu Patriot* calls it, representing the Sundarbun tenantry, for the document from which a long extract is given in the *Patriot* shews upon the face of it, so much ignorance of local matters as to suggest the idea of its being a merely got up one. The extract document says that the "proposed Road joins the Kulpi metalled road at Baraset on which stand the two Rice-Hats of the District, the Mugra and Busti Hats." We have never as yet heard of the existence of a Hat called Busti in these quarters. Should Busti be urged as a misprint for Usti, both the Hats are situate, the former upwards of 5 miles and the latter upwards of 13 miles distant from the Kulpi Road, on which singularly enough these Hats are made to stand by the so-called Ryot-petitioners; and that the Busti (Usti) Hat which is in fact a small and unimportant rice mart should receive the honor of the appellation of one of the two principal rice Hats of the District. These local blunders would scarcely have occurred, had the document in question been a *bona fide* Ryoti one. We challenge the so-called Ryot petitioners to name some of the populous villages which are said to be situate in "close proximity" to the range of the proposed Road; which will not as it is stated in the petition under review, run close to the Gorar and Bautra Hats. Had there been any chance of its doing so, the proprietors of these two Hats would not have come forward to memorialize the Government.

Had there been any truth in the allegation of the so-called Ryot petitioners that the interested zemindars have only protested against the Road toward off a future loss to their rent by the reclamation of the Sunderbuns, then most of he Muzilpore Datta zemindars who possess upwards of 4 Lacs of Bighas in the Sunderbuns, their estates consisting mostly of the Sunderbun Lots would not have raised their voice against the Road. Had there been any benefits to be derived by the Sunderbuns at large they would as a matter of course receive the lion's share in the same and they are too acute not to perceive their own in create

We fail to perceive the force of your concluding argument that the Road Cess Fund should be made to contribute towards a future benefit as in the case of the Sunderbuns by the Mahismari Road at the expense of the existing works of locomotion in localities mostly contributing to swell the fund when leaving aside the justice of the question a stray wave from the Bay of Bengal may at any time wash off all the vestiges of a Sunderbun population—its huts, roads, marts and although a phenomenon very general in that quarter. Besides such undertakings are at the best experimental and experiments generally turn out to be failures.

We hope that you, as an impartial journalist, will not hesitate to publish the above in your next.

Yours sincerely.
KALI NATH DATTA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*May* 10, 1876.

GENERAL.—*The 24th April* 1876.—Mr. C. M. W. Brett, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, of the Serajgunge division of the Pubna district, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (S. C.) of 1871.

The 2nd May 1876.—Baboo Deno Nath Ghose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Bankoora, is allowed leave for two months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of the leave

Baboo Denu Nath Dey, Sub-Deputy Collector, Howrah, is transferred temporarily to Bankoora.

The 3rd May 1876.—Mr. Francis Henry Bennet Skrine, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Chooadanga Division of the Nuddea district, is allowed leave for seven weeks, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 12th instant.

Mr. J. B. Ricketts, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nuddea, is appointed to have charge of the Chooadanga Division of the Nuddea district during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. H. B. Skrine, or until further orders.

Baboo Gopal Chandra Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it in anticipation of sanction.

The 5th May 1876.—The Secretary of State has been pleased to grant to Mr. W. K. Clementson, of the Subordinate Executive Service, extension of leave for six months on medical certificate.

Baboo Rakhal Dass Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, having joined his appointment at Barripore, in the 24 Pergunnahs, on the 10th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under the orders of the 14th January 1876, is cancelled.

POLICE.—*The 6th May* 1867.—The following acting promotions of police officers are made with effect from the dates mentioned against their respective names, viz.—

To act in the First Grade of District Superintendents of Police.

Mr. O. S. Stack, from the 18th March 1876, *vice* Major R. M. Skinner.

Major C. T. Hitchins, from the 11th April 1876, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel W. T. Fagan.

To act in the Second Grade.

Mr. F. T. Platts, *vice* Mr. Stack.

,, H. M. Weathrall, from the 7th April 1876, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel T. Buttanshaw.

Major W. W. Hume, *vice* Major Hitchins.

Mr. H. W. J. Bamber, from the 16th April 1876, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel W. Gordon.

To act in the Third Grade.

Baboo Jugodish Nath Roy, *vice* Mr. Platts.

Mr. R. H. G. Irvine, *vice* Mr. Weathrall.

,, A. Blair, *vice* Major Hume.

,, A. Anley, *vice* Mr. Bamber.

To act in the Fourth Grade.

Mr. C. Jennins, *vice* Baboo Jugodish Nath Roy.

,, A. H. James, from the 21st March 1876, *vice* Mr. D. Lacey.

Mr. D. W. Ritchie, *vice* Mr. Irvine.

,, H. N. Harris, *vice* Mr. Blair.

,, G. H. French, *vice* Mr. Anley.

To act in the First Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Mr. R. A. D. Rignell, from the 11th April 1876.

,, M. F. Beamish, from the 16th April 1876.

REGISTRATION.—*The 28th April* 1876.—Baboo Protap Chunder Banerjee is appointed to be Sub-Registrar of Mungleote, in Burdwan, *vice* Baboo Amrito Lall Biswas, resigned.

The 5th May 1876.—Baboo Raghu Nundun Sahoy, Special Sub-Registrar, Patna, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

The 24th April 1876.—The name of Baboo Bhola Nath Dutt is removed from the list of Honorary Magistrates in the district of Monghyr.

The 1st May 1876.—Baboo Chundy Churn Bose, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Second Class.

The 2nd May 1876.—Baboo Mohanund Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Second Class.

The 4th May 1876.—Mr. William Robert Millar, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Saran, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the First Class.

The 5th May 1876.—Baboo Upendro Nath Ghose is appointed to act as Moonsif of Dantoon, in the district of Midnapore, during the absence, on leave of Baboo Mohendra Narain Chuckerbutty, or until further orders.

Mr. A. W. Mackie, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Purneah, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the First Class.

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Any contributions in aid of this memorial will be thankfully received by—

Dwarka Nath Chuckerbutty
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Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Hooghly the 26th April, 1876.

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Under the permission of the Government of Bengal, the undersigned intends to publish in Bengali a weekly journal called the *Bangala Rajkeeya Gazettee* from the 1st of May 1876. This paper will contain all the articles of the Government Statistical Reporter, extracts of editorials from the vernacular news papers, besides news of the week.

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